DC PRIDE
FAN ZINE 2025
13+ TEEN
1

DC PRIDE

FAN ZINE 2025

FEATURING 11
ORIGINAL STORIES
MADE BY FANS LIKE YOU!

DC **PRIDE**
FAN ZINE 2025

"A ROGUES' PROMISE"
HENRY J. WRITER
ROSE ARTIST
TJ BELL LETTERER

"DATING OVER SIXTY"
TAYLOR S.G. WRITER
TJ BELL ARTIST & LETTERER
EXISTENTIALARCADE INKER

"WHO KNOWS?"
HENRY J. WRITER
RAVEN/LENA ARTIST & LETTERER

"THE BLUE AND THE BOLD"
BOOSTERGOLD07 WRITER
TUFF ARTIST & LETTERER

"THE LAST BORIS"
EARTHSHINE WRITER
FASTERTHANLIFE ARTIST

"ROOFTOP ESCAPADES"
AEV WRITER
PHERAM ARTIST & LETTERER

"LORATU"
SPACE-SPECS WRITER
MAE EVANS ARTIST & LETTERER

"WALKING THROUGH THE WRECKAGE"
JARED WAUGH WRITER
LADYG ARTIST & LETTERER

"NOW YOU TRY"
HENRY J. WRITER
BRIAN CARTER ARTIST & LETTERER
KANE COLORIST

"DAWN"
3 HOBBITS IN A TRENCHCOAT WRITER
HERA ARTIST
ROWAN BLUE INKER

"EPIPHANY"
JES AND CIN WIBOWO STORY & ART

PINUPS
SHARING THE SKY BY **BRIAN CARTER**
CATWOMAN BY **MIGHTYIRONSTAR**
BIRDS OF PARADISE BY **FENJA_B**
BOMBSHELLS BY **RAVEN/LENA**
FIRST DATE BY **MAE EVANS**
DOCTOR OCTOBER BY **ROSE**
PRIDE PROTECTORS BY **ORION**
TRACI 13 BY **EVAN SPARROW**
WORLD'S FINEST BY **ZAI_DOODLES**
THE ACEPARROW BY **DIRKA DREEMURR**
THE SUN&THE STAR BY **MIGHTYIRONSTAR**

PRIDE FLAG USED IN THE DC FAN ZINE LOGO DESIGNED BY **VALENTINO VECCHIETTI**

COVER BY **CARELESSAPPLES**

SPECIAL THANKS
KANE COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT
ROY & ZELINA SOCIAL MEDIA & BRANDING
AN & GRAVES ORGANIZATION & TOOLS
KETCHUP ON CALL ASSISTANCE
RA HEIGHT & STUDIO SKYE-TIGER PROCESS GUIDANCE & FEEDBACK
AND YOU!

FOREWORD BY TJ BELL

CREATOR & LEAD EDITOR

I love DC Comics.

I think that much, given the amount of work and care that has gone into what you're about to read,is probably pretty evident. I *love* DC Comics. I picked up my very first comic, an issue of The Batman Adventures by Paul Dini, when I was just eleven years old and it completely changed the course of my life. *Poof!* went my dreams of being a big-shot actor and *WHAM!* I slammed right into the world of superheroes. I didn't fully know why at the time, but as I grew up and started to understand more about myself it was clear that the stories of secret identities and fighting for what you believe in meant more to me than just watching Batman punch some criminal's lights out.

The way you resonate with superheroes is inherently *different* when you're queer. That's just a fact. Sure, everyone knows what it's like to have secrets — but not everyone can fully grasp that exact *feeling* of having to hide the most important part of yourself, of keeping that *secret identity* safe because it could be dangerous to let it out.

In 2021, DC Comics saw me too. They released their first Queer Anthology, just in time for Pride Month, and I'm not ashamed to admit that it brought me to tears. Characters I knew and loved for *being queer*, just like me, got their own featured stories and art that centered that part of their identity — no longer a secret. Since then, DC Comics has released a new special every year to... shall we say mixed reviews. As time goes on and the cultural climate surrounding LGBTQIA rights becomes more and more divisive, DC has taken a more comfortable and cautious route that some people adore and others can't stand.But love it or hate it, the DC pride specials are important regardless of how they're received, so the last thing I mean to do here is complain. The book you're reading now isn't a dismissal of the official special, and it isn't trying to prove any point other than this: **there could always be more queer stories.**

And so, this project was born — and what an *ambitious* project it was, too! I had never organized a *Zine* before, let alone a full-blown comic special! I didn't know if anyone would be interested, I didn't know if anyone would care. On top of that, I was making a BIG ask — I was asking for *collaboration*. I was asking writers and artists to blindly team up with each other in a way we don't often see in fandom. I was asking them to *make comics* together.

We definitely had some nay-sayers: creators are often reluctant to give up complete control of their work. I can understand the hesitation! Entrusting your art to another person is *scary*. But with 30 brave contributors willing to jump into the fray and do something new, we created *over 80 beautiful pages* of a completely fan-made comic book special. But it isn't just about the special (although the special is *very* ***very*** cool), it's about what else we created in theprocess.

2025 is halfway through, and it's already been one of the most terrifying years that most of us have lived through. Hate has taken root worldwide and turned people against each other in some very nasty ways. Our community has felt it too: on top of the record-breaking anti-transgender legislation that threatens the safety and security of our trans siblings across multiple nations, we have seen a rise in violence and hatred against others for merely having a different skin color, or bearing a different flag. We've seen reproductive rights rolled back at abysmal rates, affecting people from all walks of life in very real, horrifying ways. The Queer Community is made up of all these people: people of all genders, races, creeds and religions; People who are afraid; People who are fighting on more than one axis; People who need other people.

That is what this project is really about — It's about ***community***.

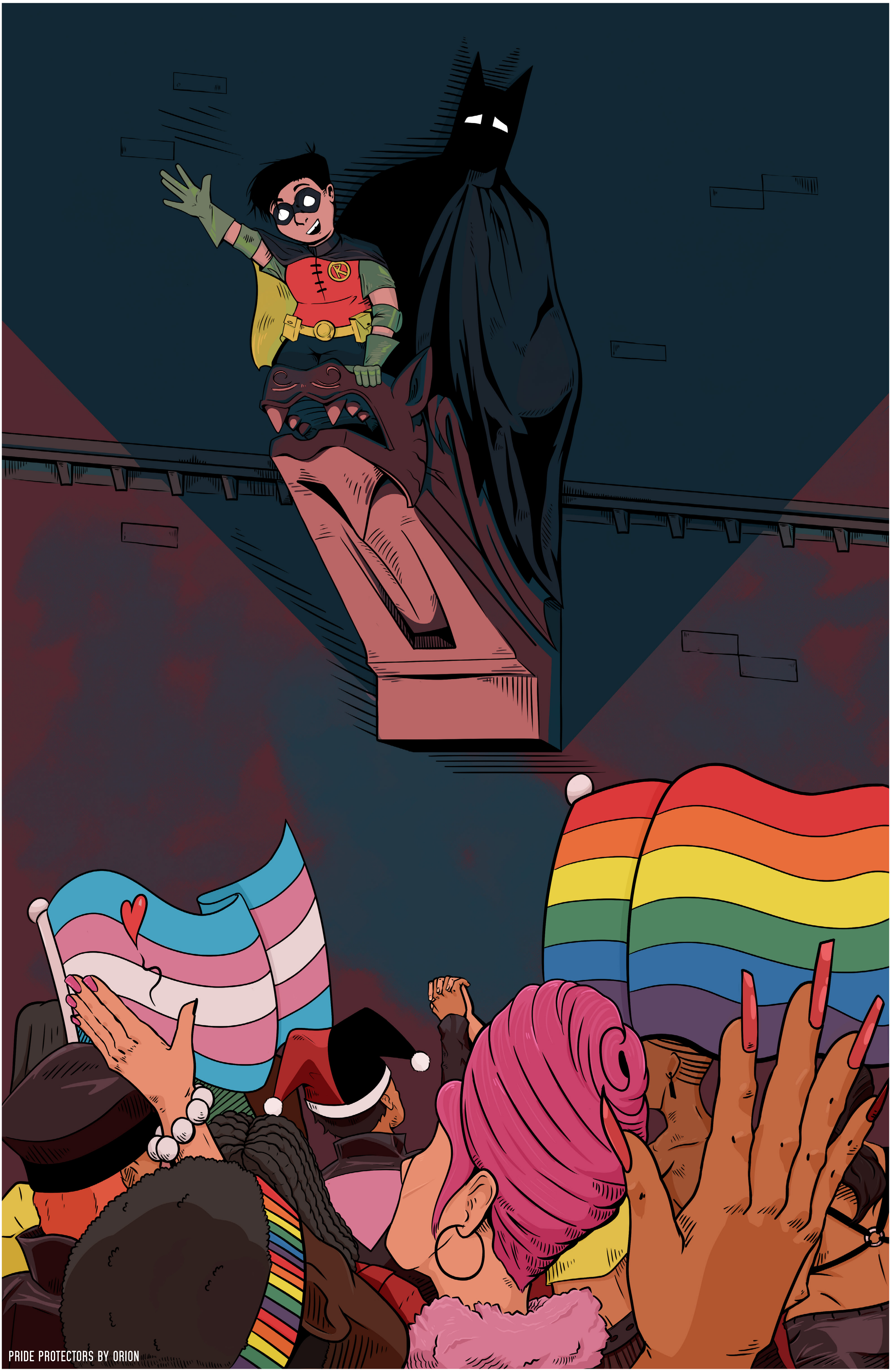
I know something like a fan-made comic book special feels silly and frivolous -- and in many ways it is. It is fun, first and foremost. It is not the most grand of political gestures, it will not write legislation, it will not secure rights. But it is *Hope*. It is *Celebration*. It is a reminder that we are still here, we are not going anywhere, and we have so many stories to tell and we are ***going*** to tell them. There is no law that can be made to take those stories away, and we need to share them now more than ever.

So as you continue through this book, I hope you'll bear in mind that every page here is filled with love. Love of our community, love of our stories, love of *laughter* and of sorrow and of pain and of ***JOY***. I hope you can take that love with you. Take it to tomorrow, to next week, to ten years from now. Because even in the darkest of times, love will *always* light the way.

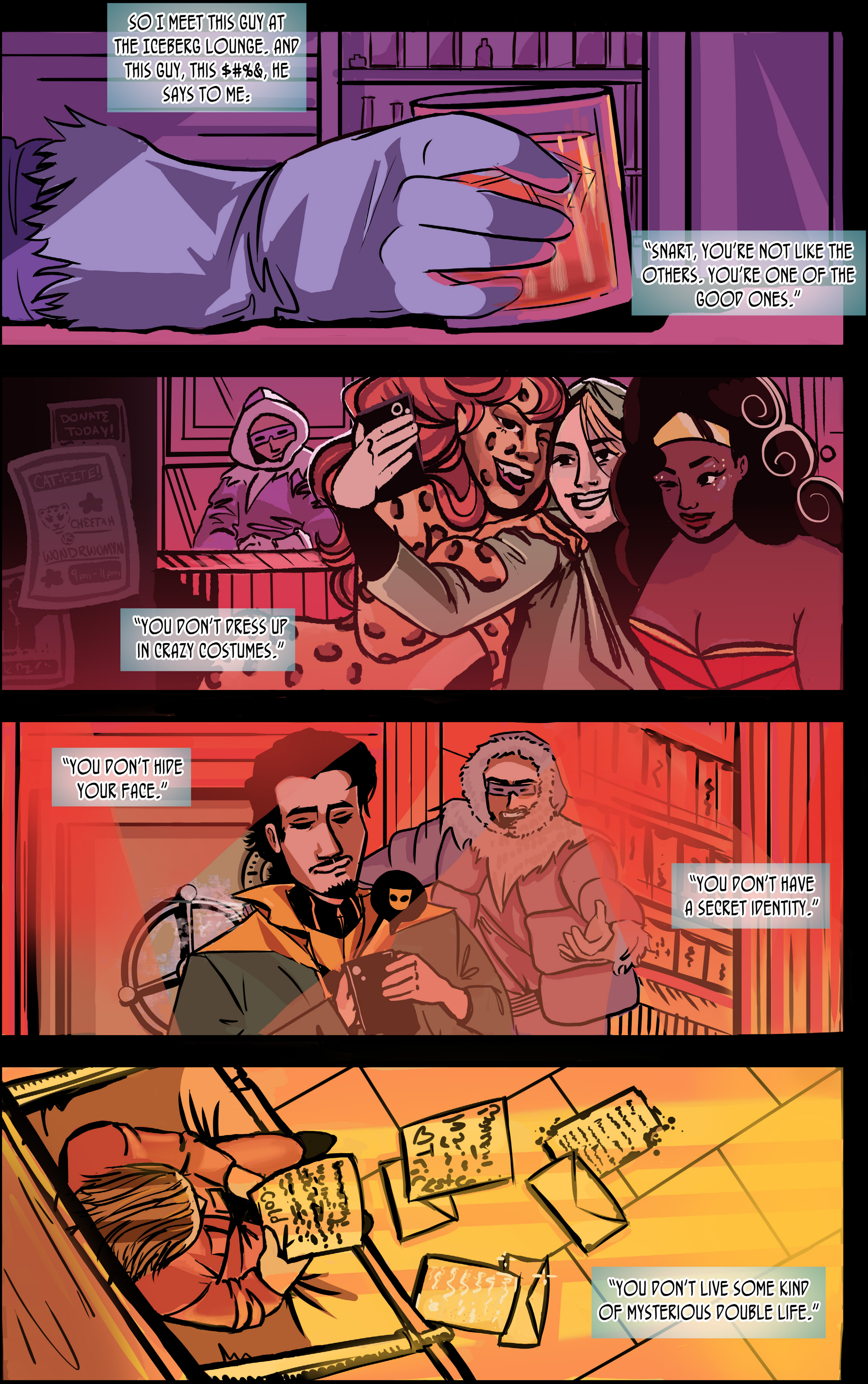
Love Wins.

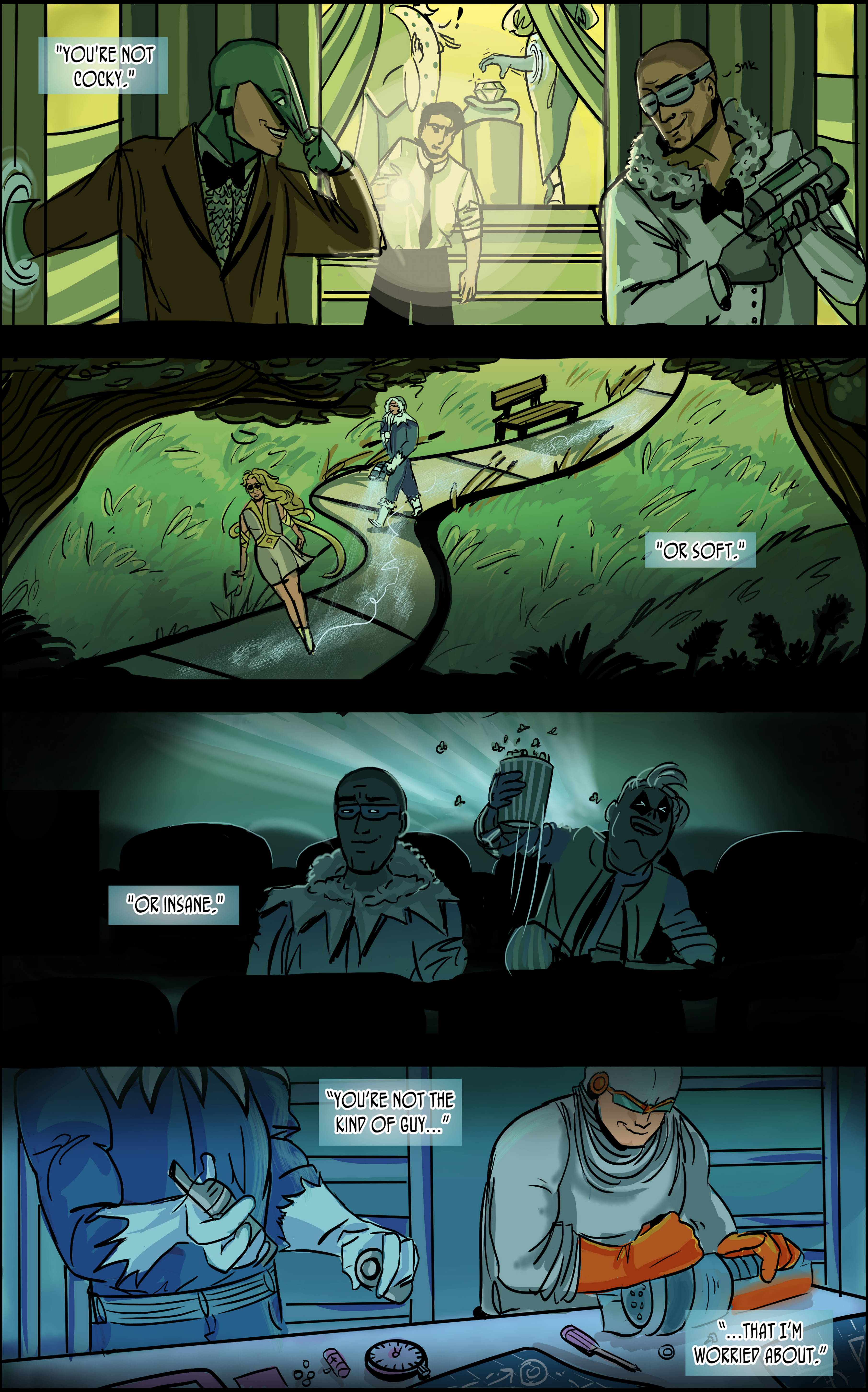
With my earnest gratitude and my deepest love,

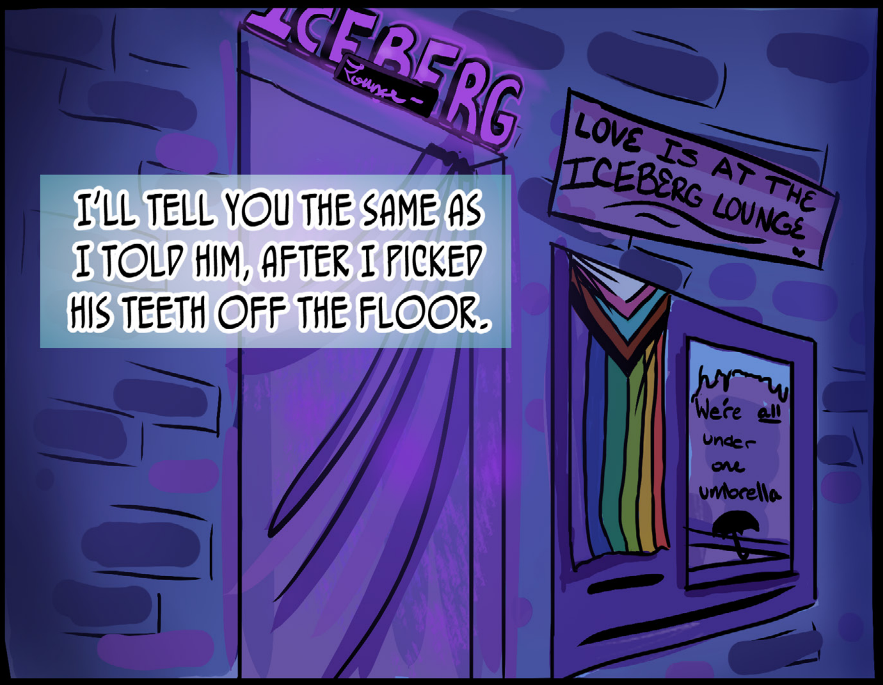
TJ Bell

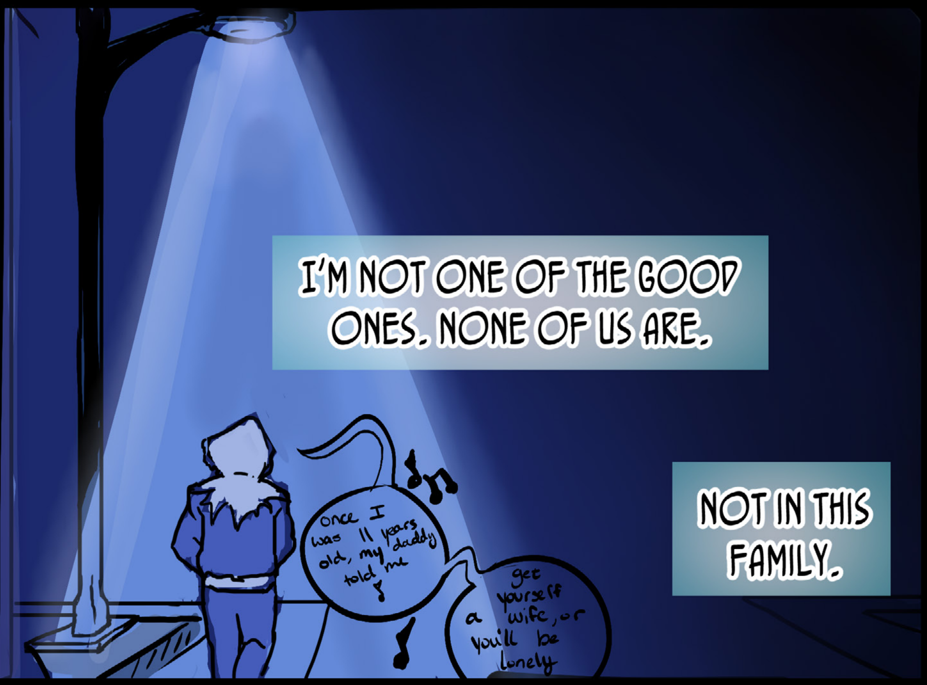


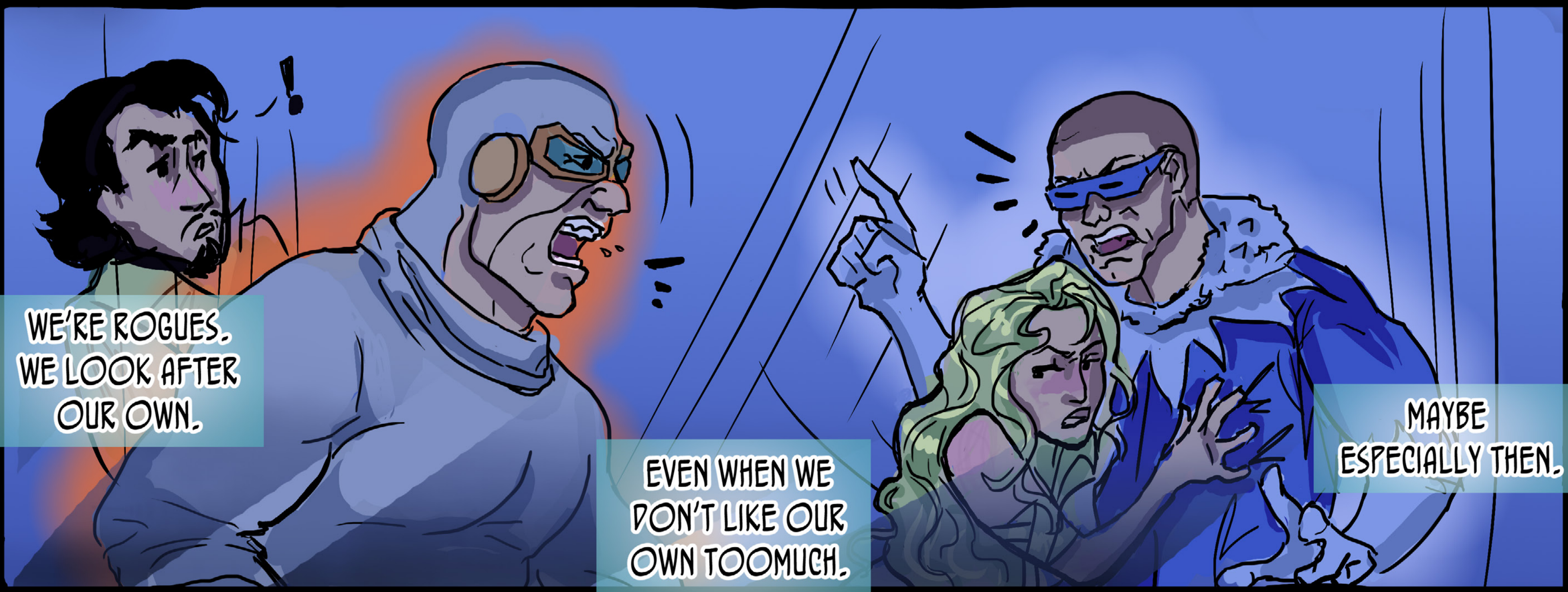
PRIDE PROTECTORS BY ORION

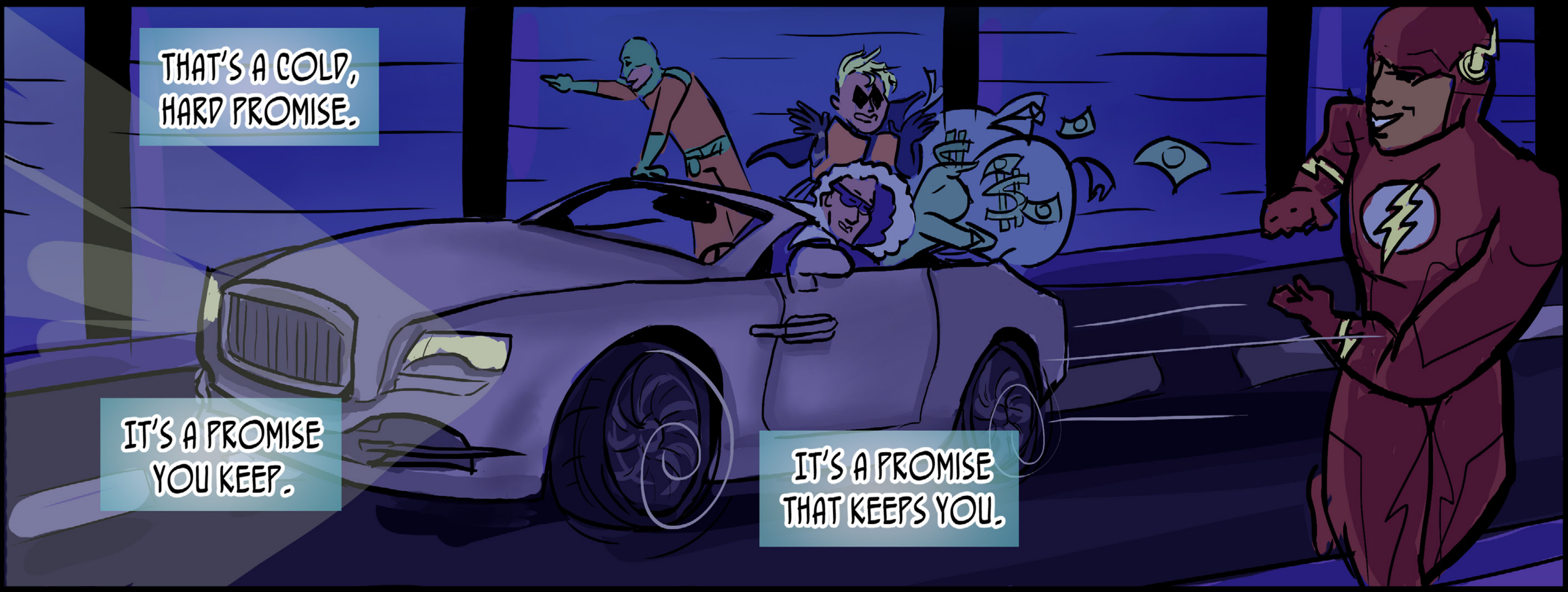

SO I MEET THIS GUY AT THE ICEBERG LOUNGE. AND THIS GUY, THIS $#%&, HE SAYS TO ME:
"SNART, YOU'RE NOT LIKE THE OTHERS. YOU'RE ONE OF THE GOOD ONES."
DONATE TODAY!
CAT-FITE!
CHEETAH VS WONDRWOMYN
9pm - 11pm
"YOU DON'T DRESS UP IN CRAZY COSTUMES."
"YOU DON'T HIDE YOUR FACE."
"YOU DON'T HAVE A SECRET IDENTITY."
Cold
"YOU DON'T LIVE SOME KIND OF MYSTERIOUS DOUBLE LIFE."

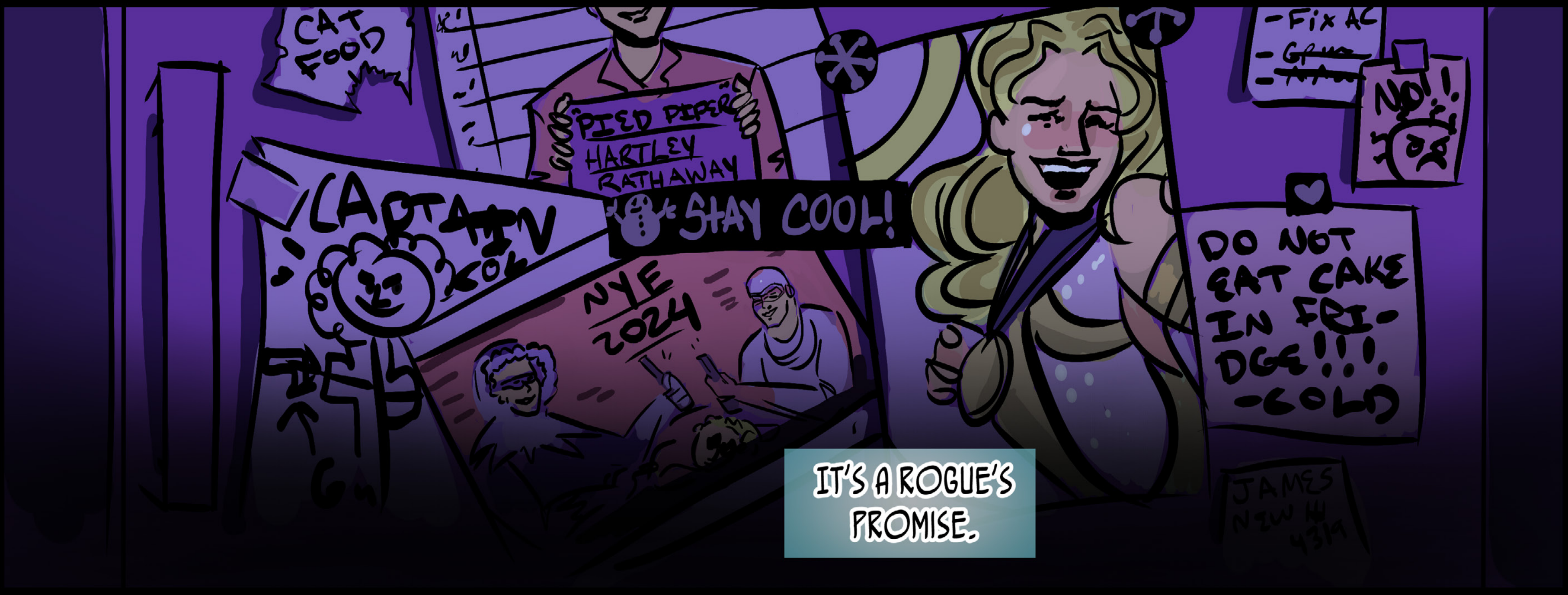

"YOU'RE NOT COCKY."
!
~SNK
"OR SOFT."
"OR INSANE."
"YOU'RE NOT THE KIND OF GUY..."
"...THAT I'M WORRIED ABOUT."

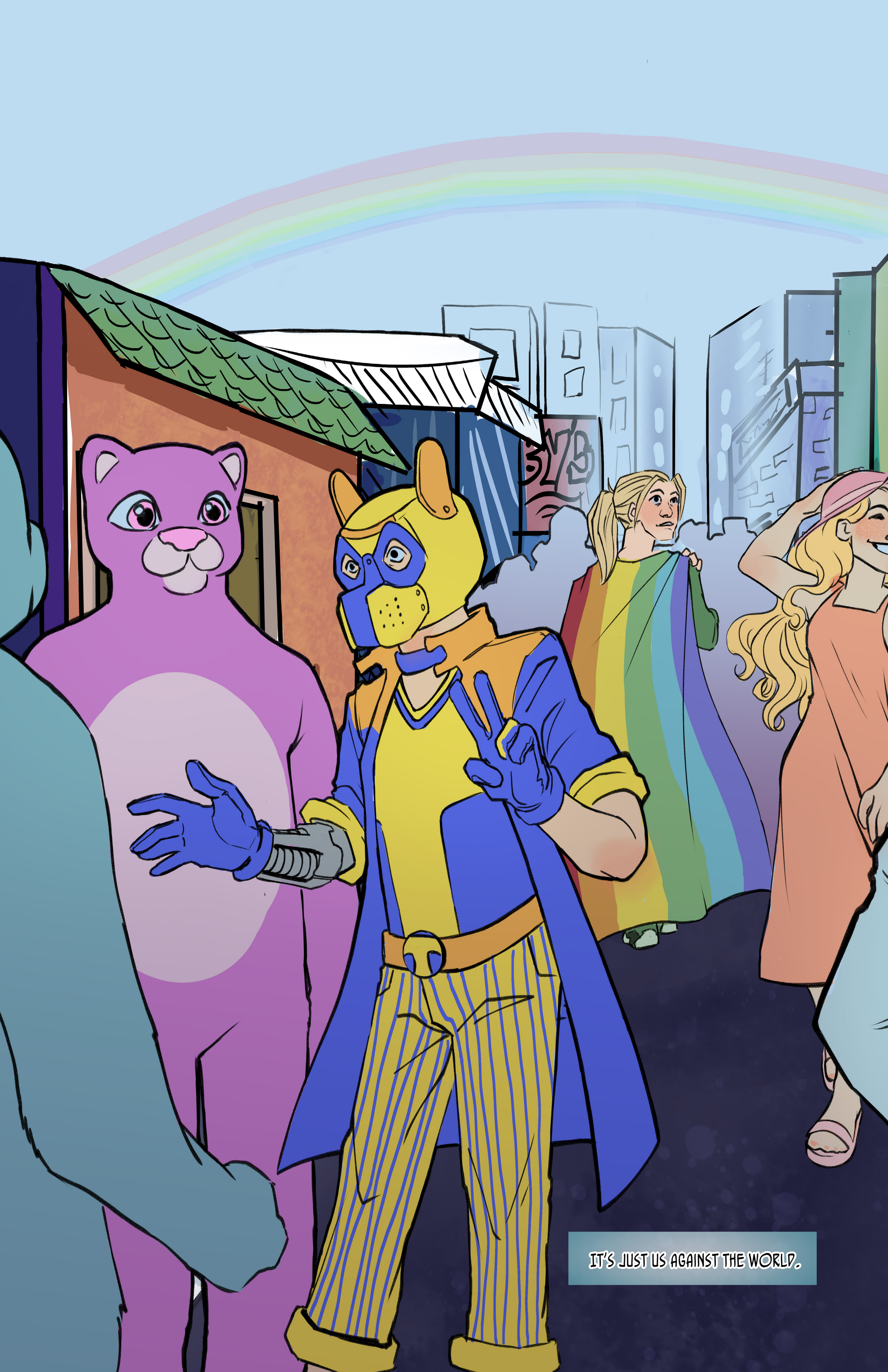

ICEBERG
Lounge
LOVE IS AT THE ICEBERG LOUNGE
We're all under one umbrella
I'LL TELL YOU THE SAME AS I TOLD HIM, AFTER I PICKED HIS TEETH OFF THE FLOOR.

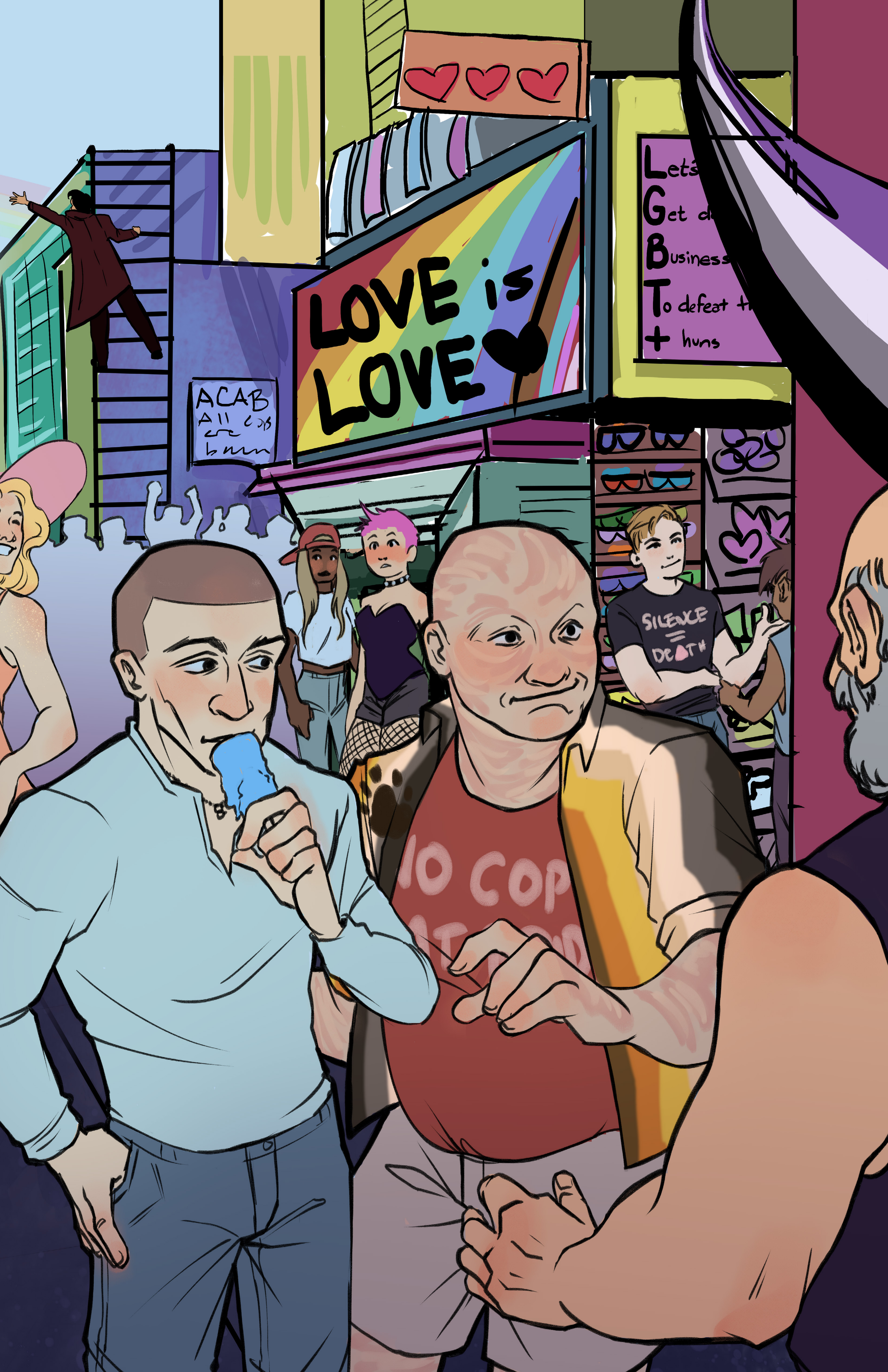

I'M NOT ONE OF THE GOOD ONES. NONE OF US ARE.
Once I was 11 years old, my daddy told me
get yourself a wife, or you'll be lonely
NOT IN THIS FAMILY.

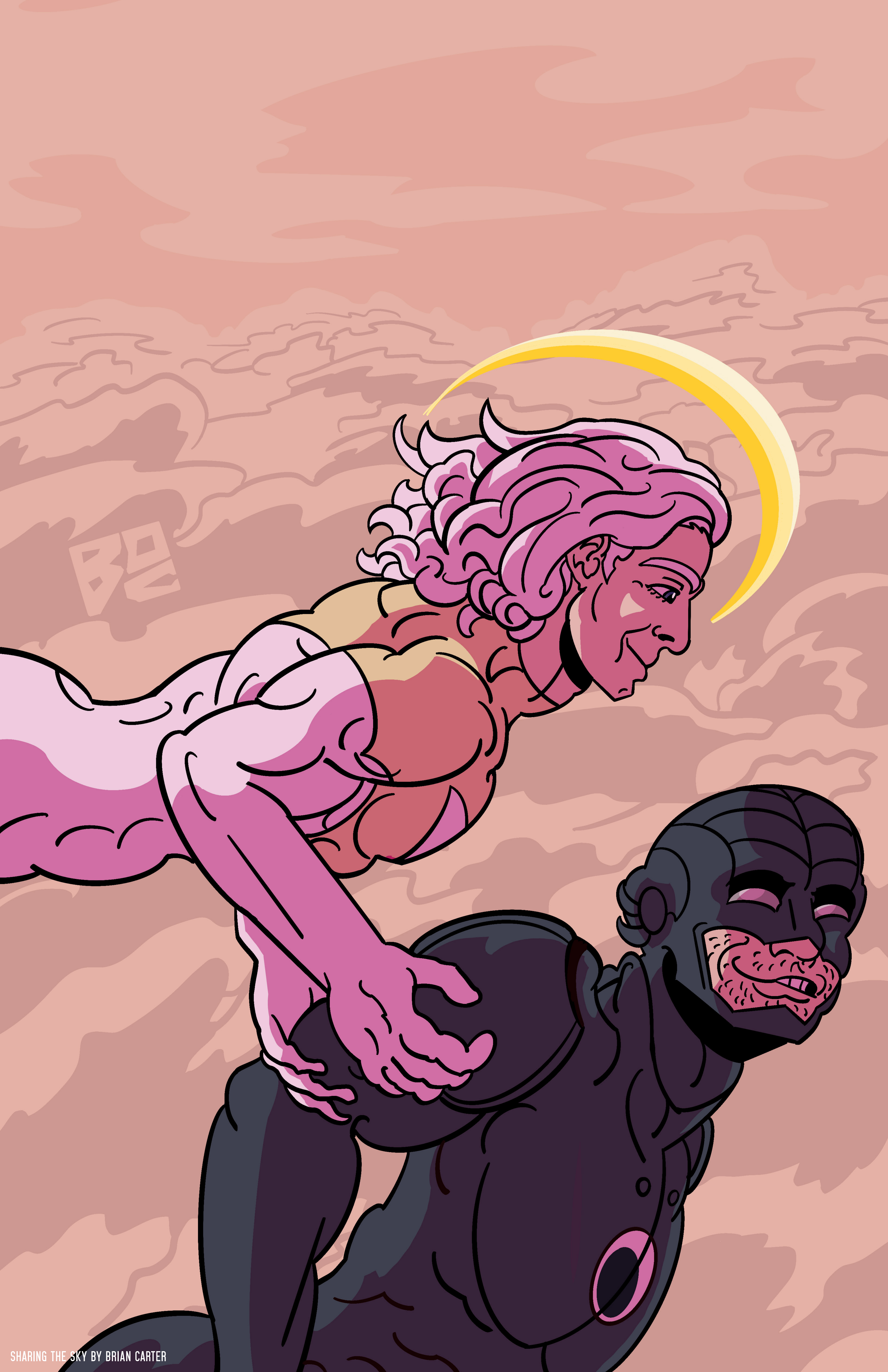

!
WE'RE ROGUES. WE LOOK AFTER OUR OWN.
EVEN WHEN WE DON'T LIKE OUR OWN TOOMUCH.
MAYBE ESPECIALLY THEN.


THAT'S A COLD, HARD PROMISE.
IT'S A PROMISE YOU KEEP.
IT'S A PROMISE THAT KEEPS YOU.

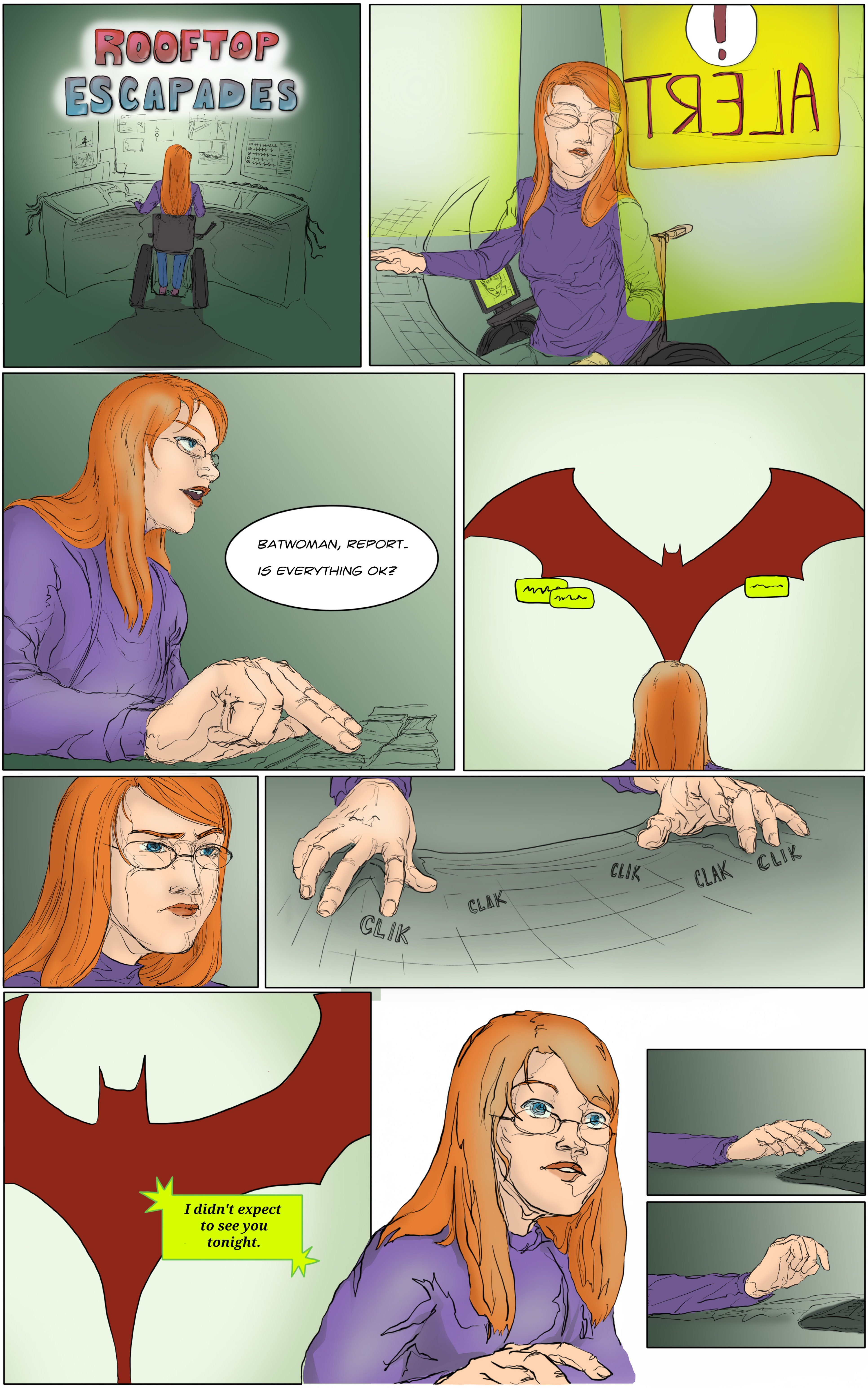

CAT FOOD
PIED PIPER
HARTLEY RATHAWAY
CAPTAIN COL
STAY COOL!
NYE 2024
-Fix AC
NO!!
DO NOT EAT CAKE IN FRI-DGE!!! -COLD
JAMES
IT'S A ROGUE'S PROMISE.

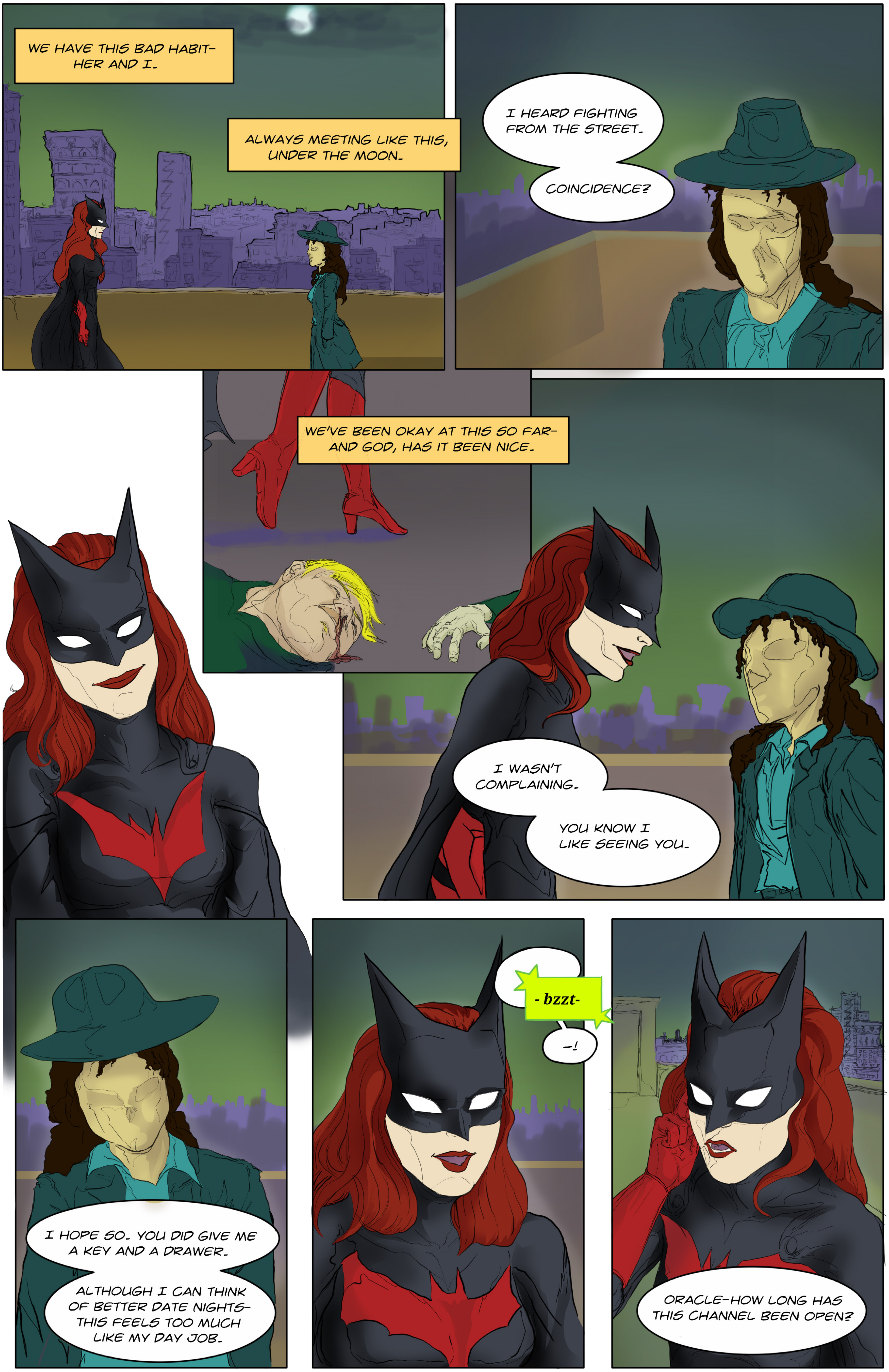

IT'S JUST US AGAINST THE WORLD.

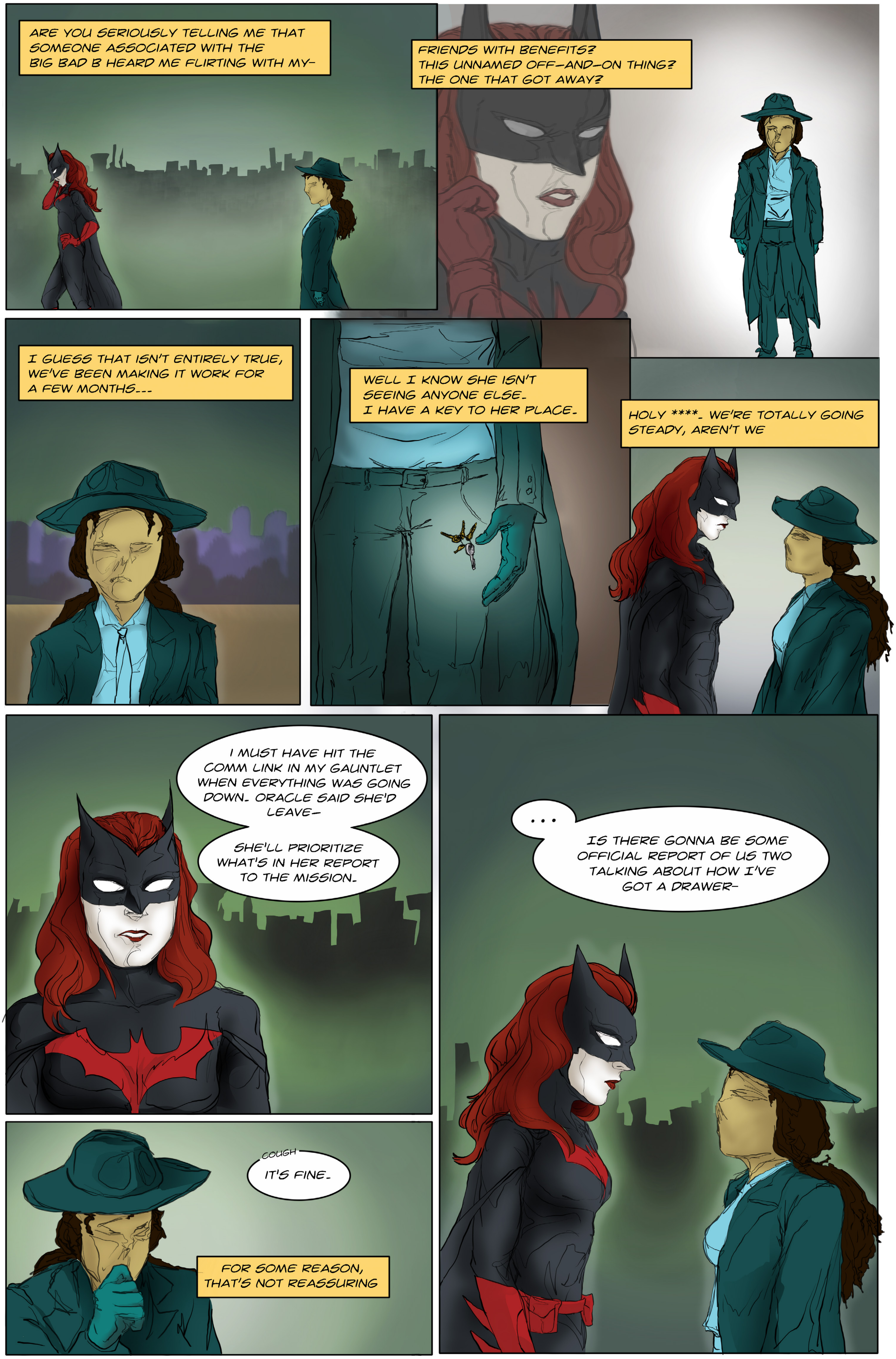

LOVE is LOVE
ACAB
All cops are
Let's
Get d
Business
To defeat th
+ huns
SILENCE = DEATH
O COP

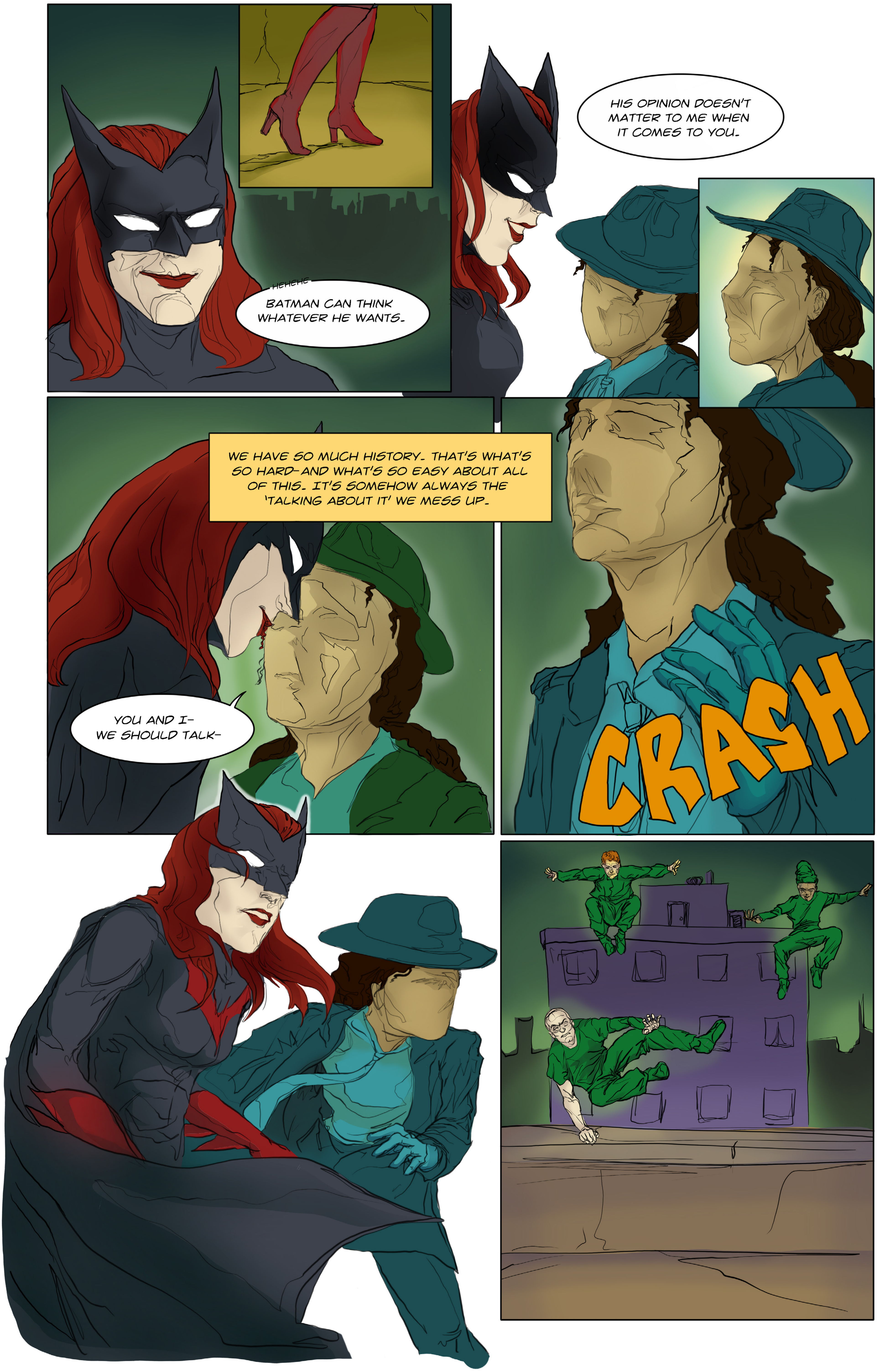


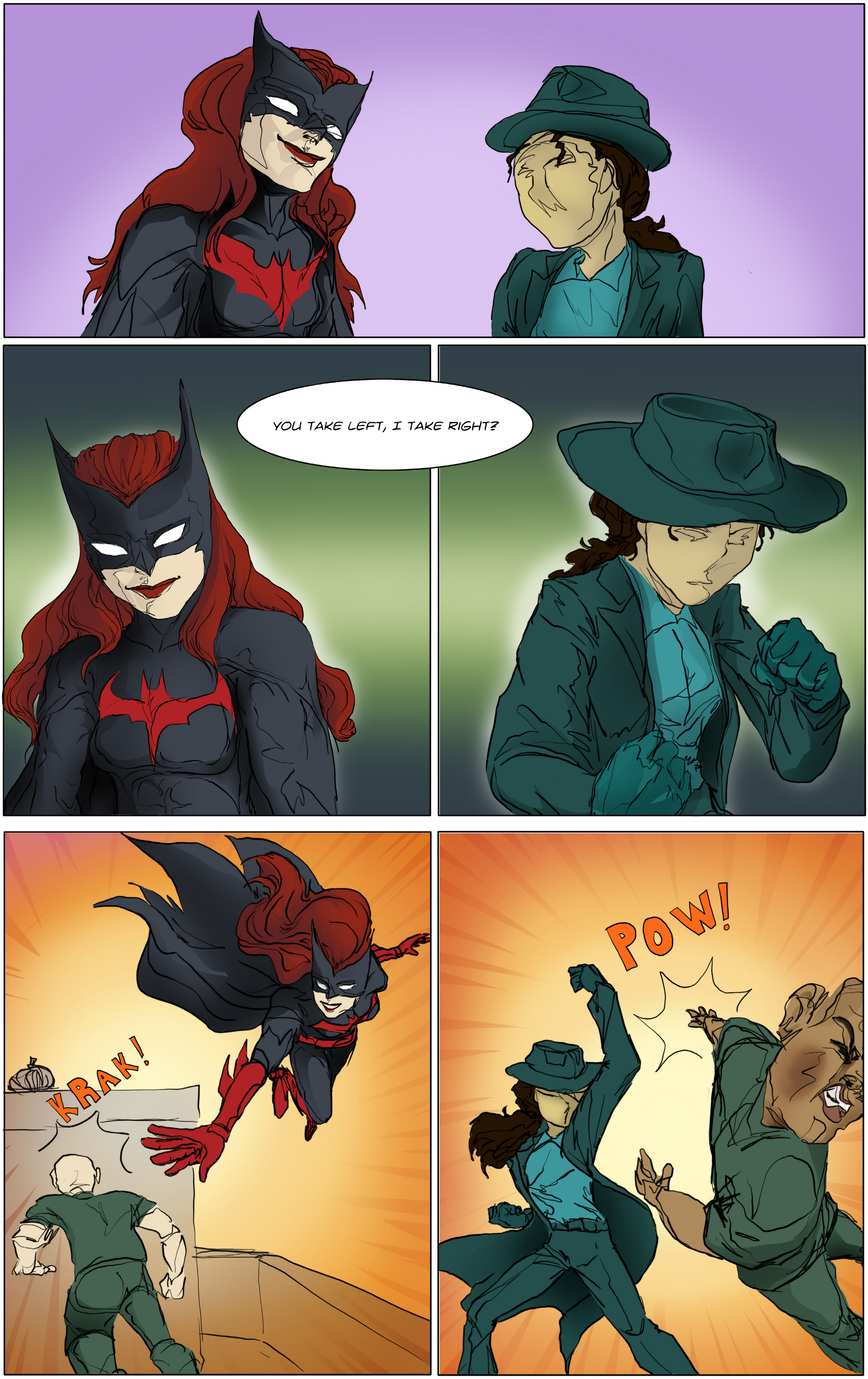
SHARING THE SKY BY BRIAN CARTER

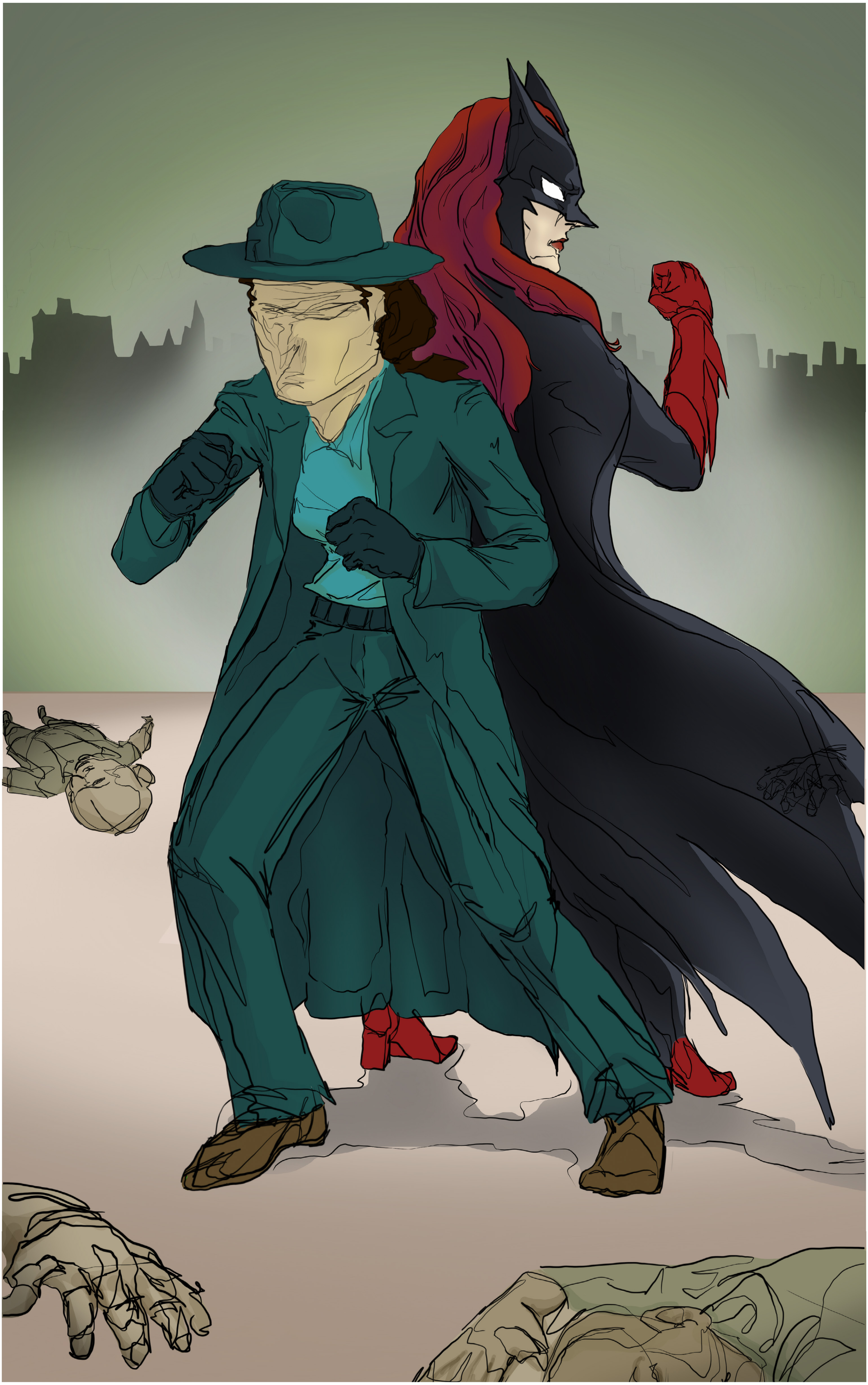

ROOFTOP ESCAPADES
!
ALERT
BATWOMAN, REPORT.
IS EVERYTHING OK?
CLIK
CLAK
CLIK
CLAK
CLIK
I didn't expect to see you tonight.

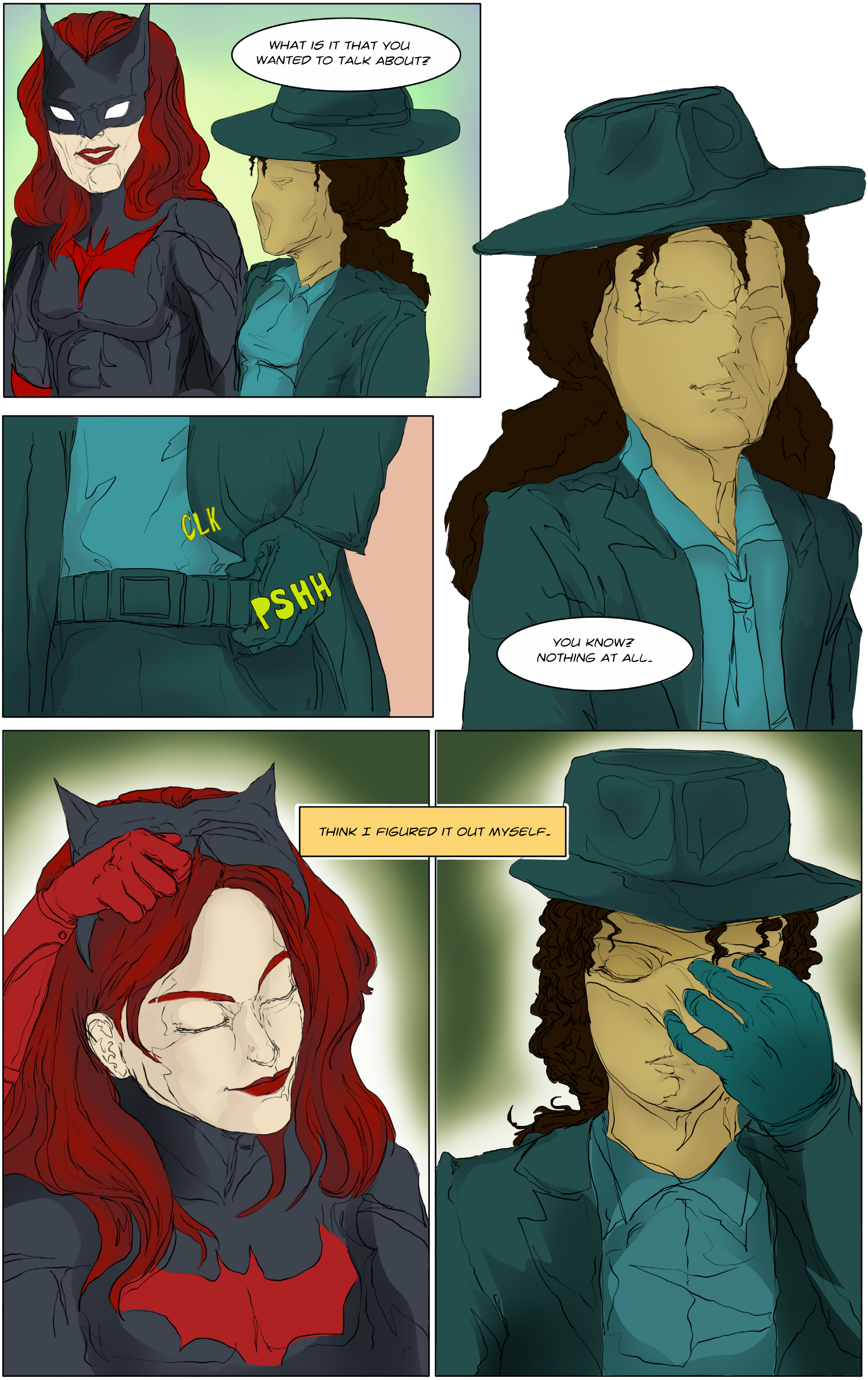

WE HAVE THIS BAD HABIT– HER AND I.
ALWAYS MEETING LIKE THIS, UNDER THE MOON.
I HEARD FIGHTING FROM THE STREET.
COINCIDENCE?
WE'VE BEEN OKAY AT THIS SO FAR– AND GOD, HAS IT BEEN NICE.
I WASN'T COMPLAINING.
YOU KNOW I LIKE SEEING YOU.
I HOPE SO. YOU DID GIVE ME A KEY AND A DRAWER.
ALTHOUGH I CAN THINK OF BETTER DATE NIGHTS– THIS FEELS TOO MUCH LIKE MY DAY JOB.
- bzzt-
–!
ORACLE–HOW LONG HAS THIS CHANNEL BEEN OPEN?

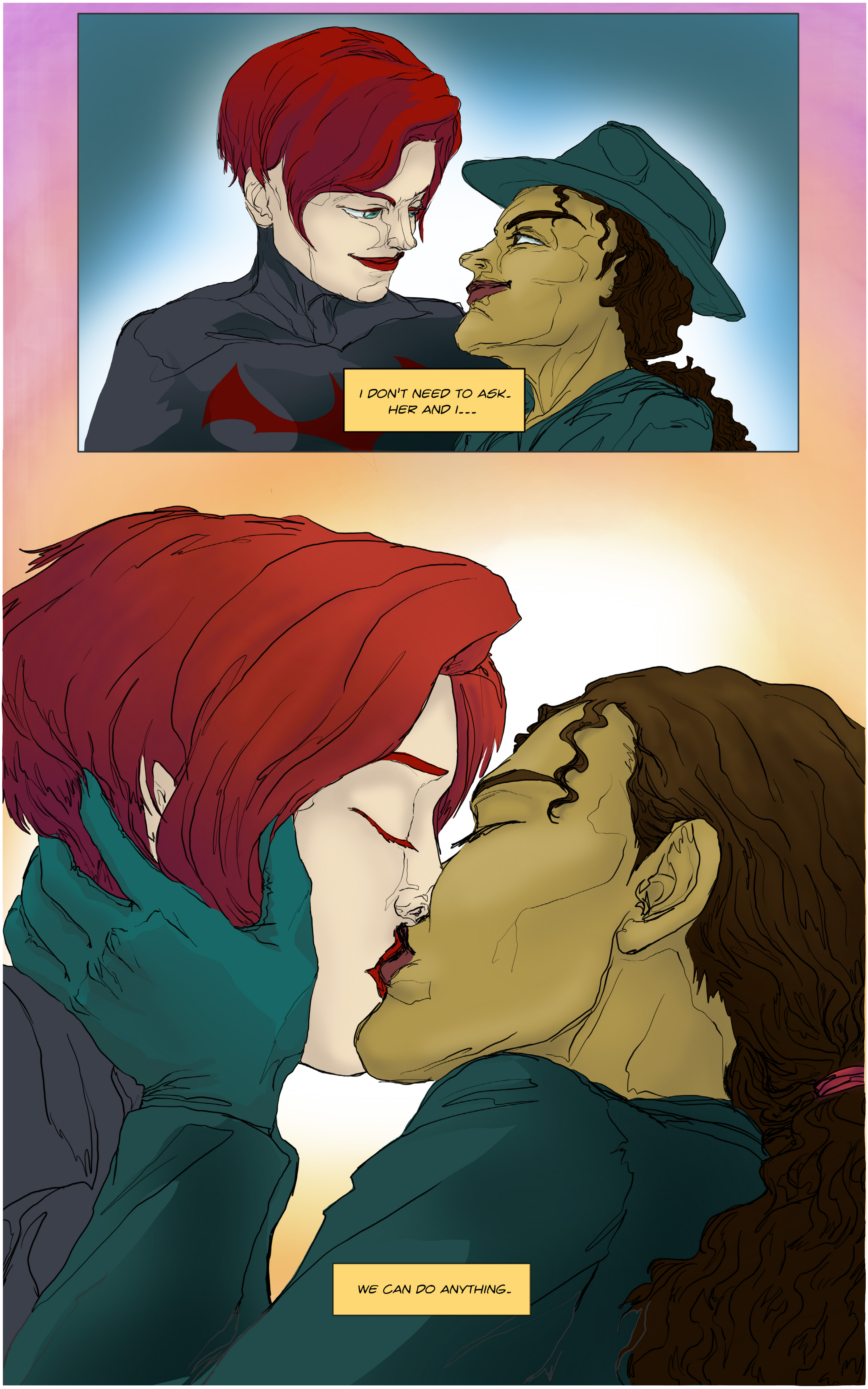

ARE YOU SERIOUSLY TELLING ME THAT SOMEONE ASSOCIATED WITH THE BIG BAD B HEARD ME FLIRTING WITH MY–
FRIENDS WITH BENEFITS? THIS UNNAMED OFF–AND–ON THING? THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY?
I GUESS THAT ISN'T ENTIRELY TRUE, WE'VE BEEN MAKING IT WORK FOR A FEW MONTHS...
WELL I KNOW SHE ISN'T SEEING ANYONE ELSE. I HAVE A KEY TO HER PLACE.
HOLY ****. WE'RE TOTALLY GOING STEADY, AREN'T WE
I MUST HAVE HIT THE COMM LINK IN MY GAUNTLET WHEN EVERYTHING WAS GOING DOWN. ORACLE SAID SHE'D LEAVE–
SHE'LL PRIORITIZE WHAT'S IN HER REPORT TO THE MISSION.
...
IS THERE GONNA BE SOME OFFICIAL REPORT OF US TWO TALKING ABOUT HOW I'VE GOT A DRAWER–
COUGH
IT'S FINE.
FOR SOME REASON, THAT'S NOT REASSURING


HEHEHE
BATMAN CAN THINK WHATEVER HE WANTS.
HIS OPINION DOESN'T MATTER TO ME WHEN IT COMES TO YOU.
WE HAVE SO MUCH HISTORY. THAT'S WHAT'S SO HARD-AND WHAT'S SO EASY ABOUT ALL OF THIS. IT'S SOMEHOW ALWAYS THE 'TALKING ABOUT IT' WE MESS UP.
YOU AND I- WE SHOULD TALK-
CRASH

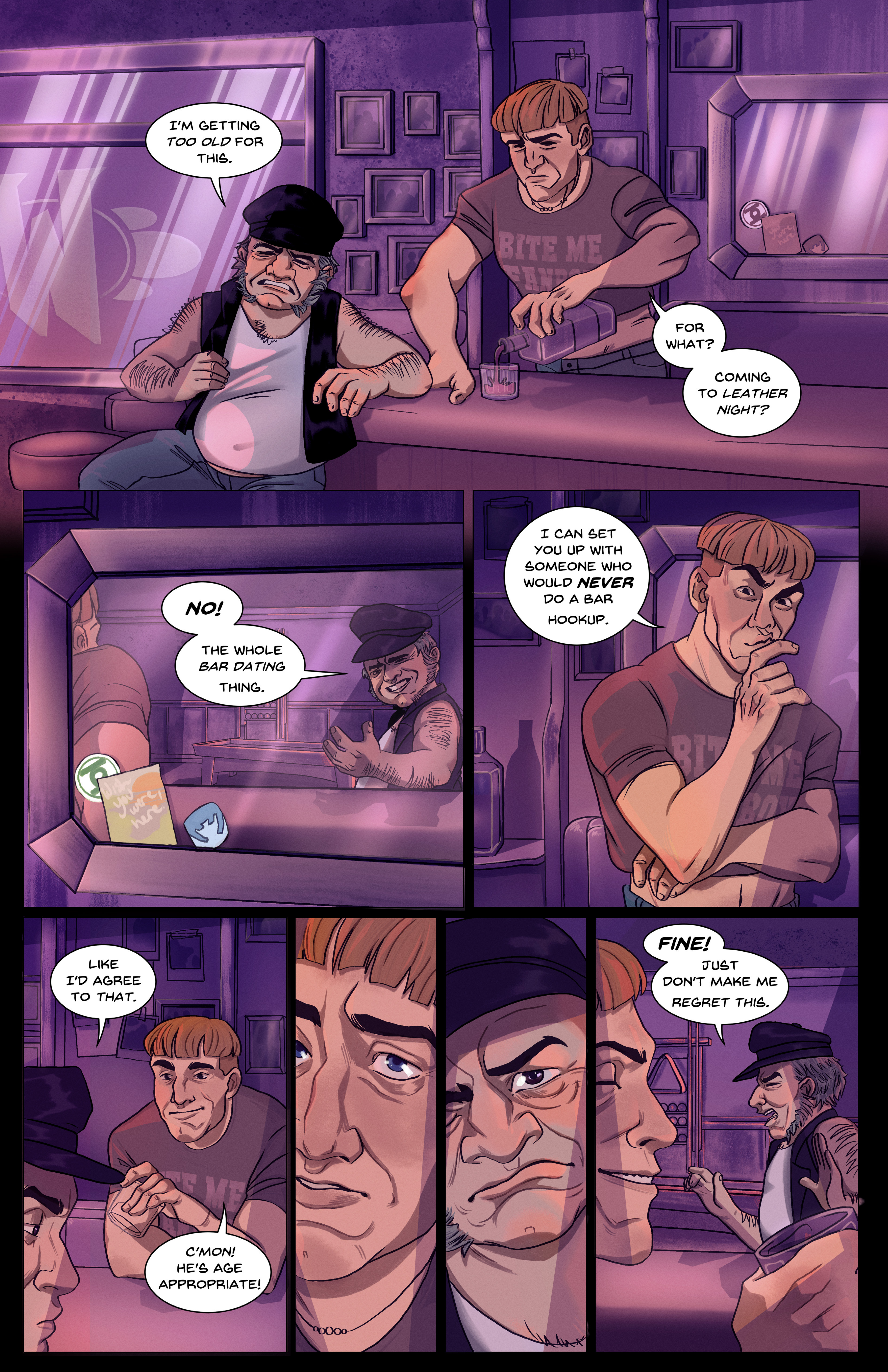

YOU TAKE LEFT, I TAKE RIGHT?
KRAK!
POW!

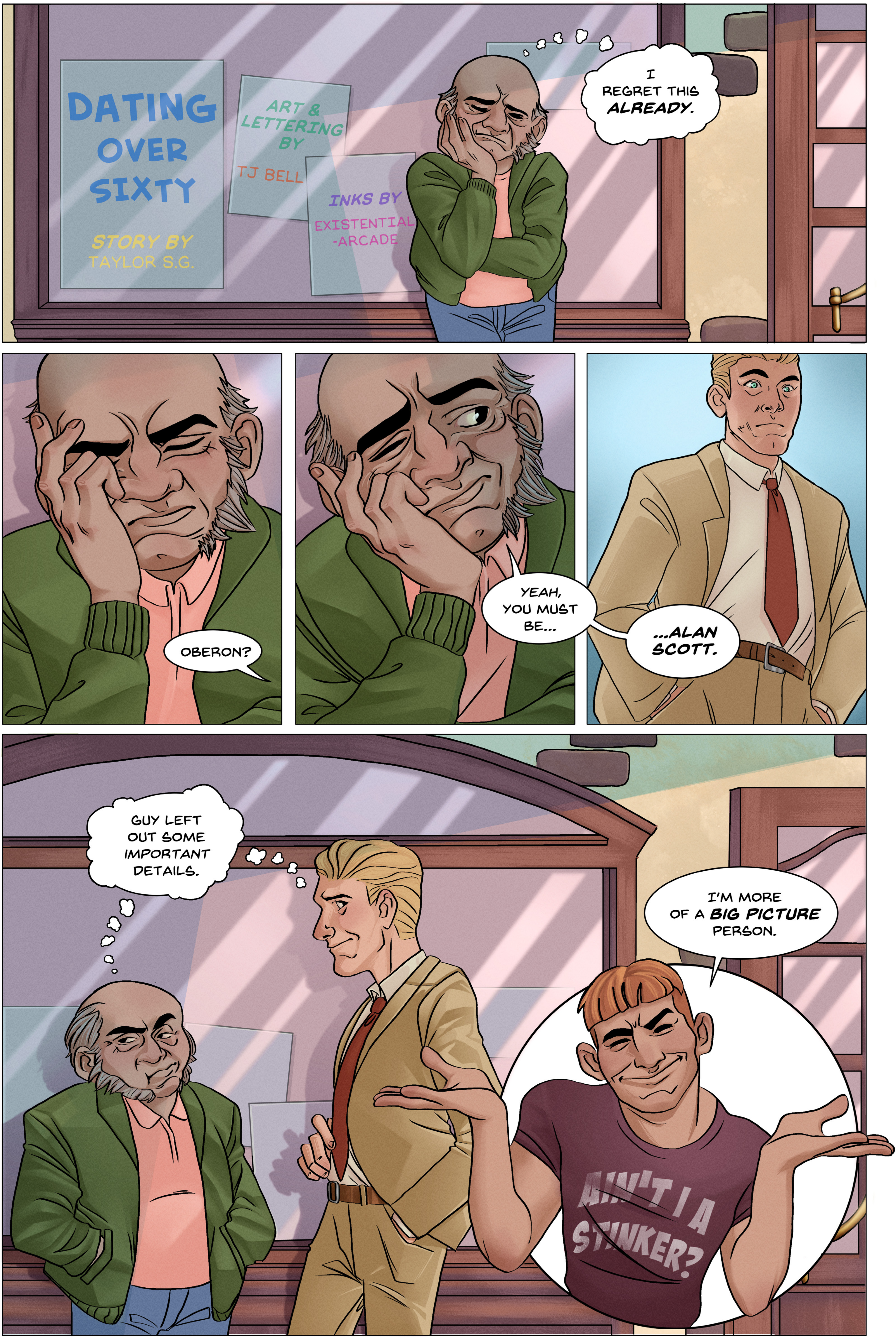


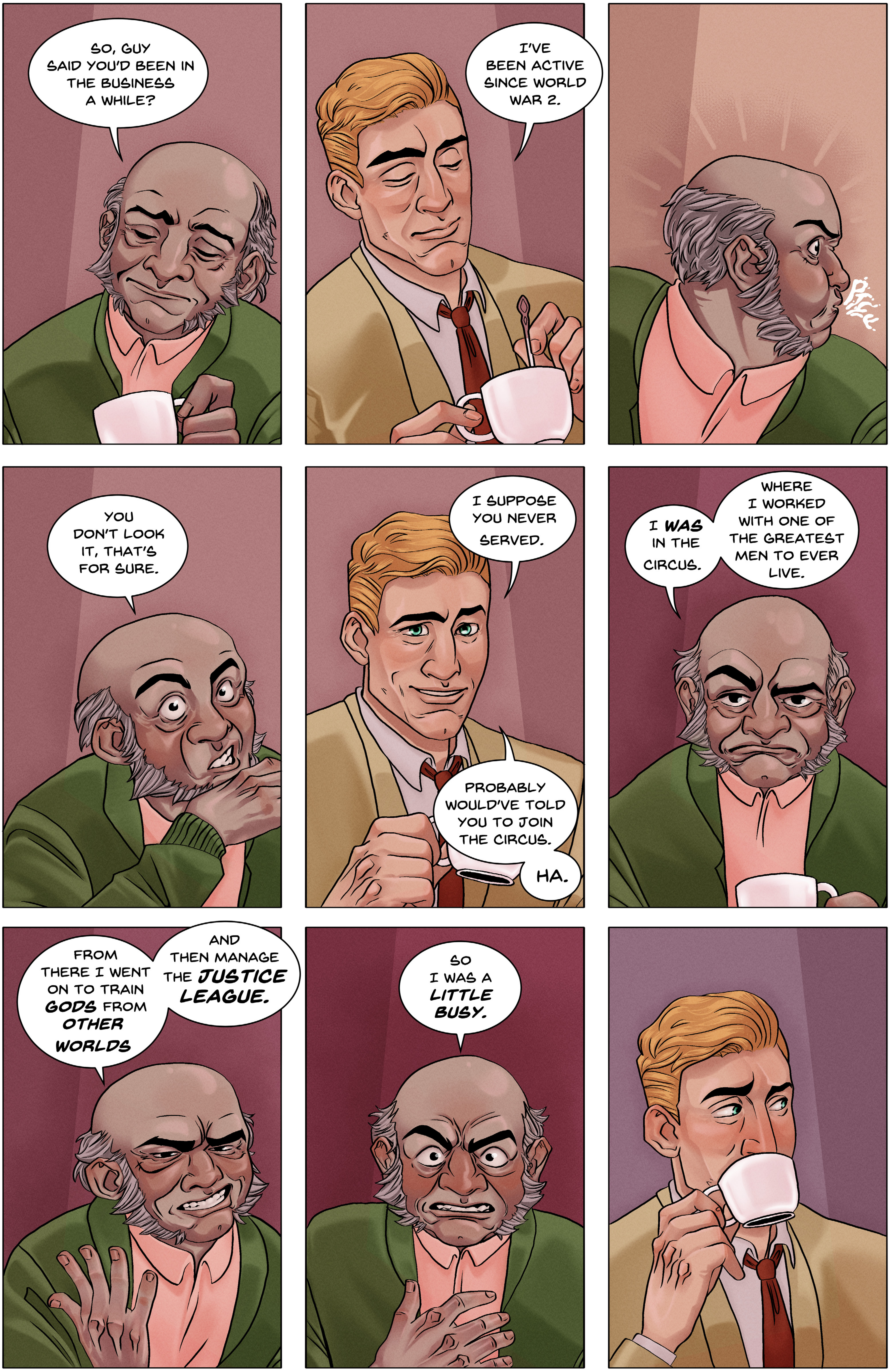

WHAT IS IT THAT YOU WANTED TO TALK ABOUT?
CLK
PSHH
YOU KNOW? NOTHING AT ALL.
THINK I FIGURED IT OUT MYSELF.

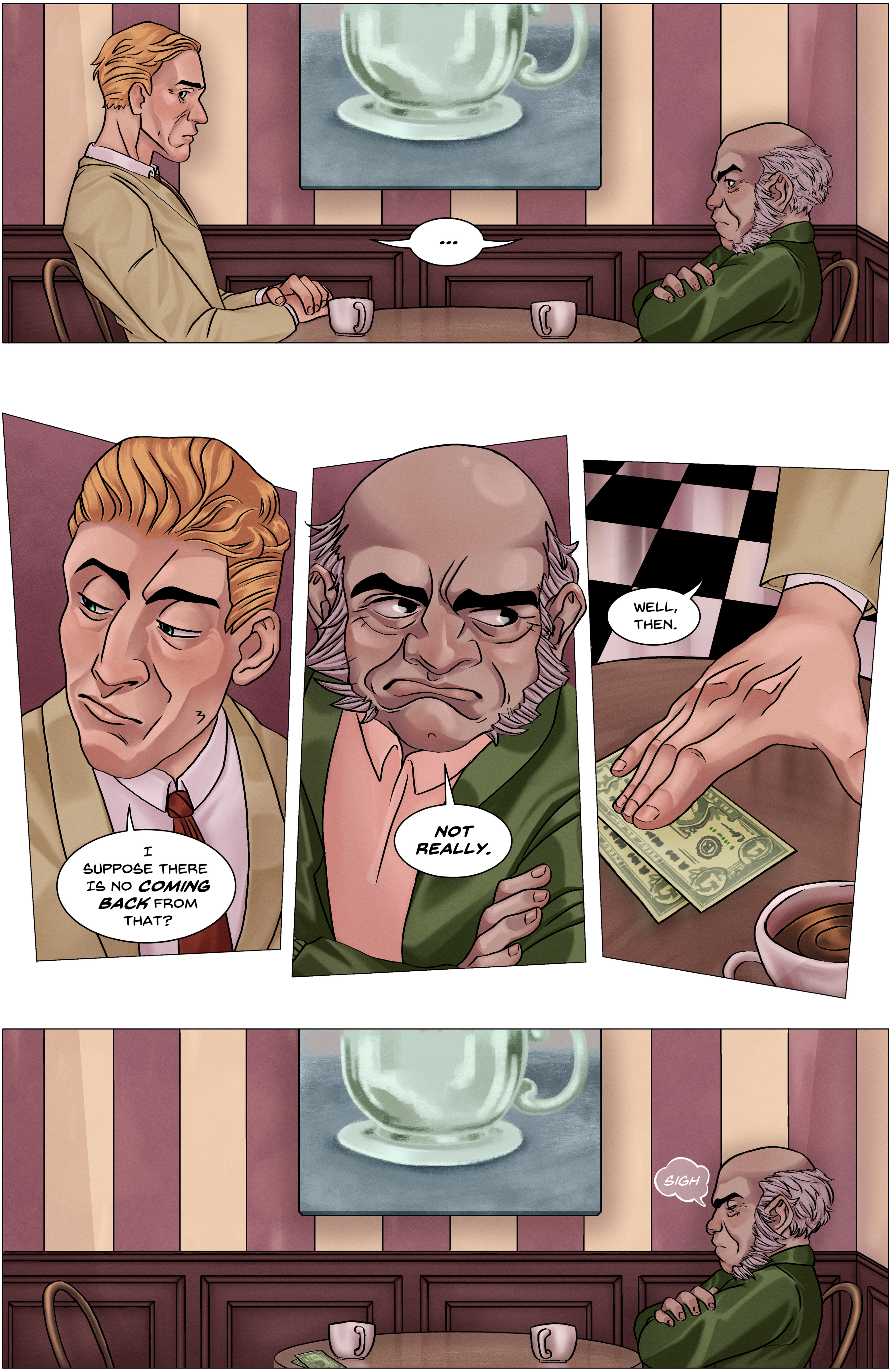

I DON'T NEED TO ASK. HER AND I...
WE CAN DO ANYTHING.

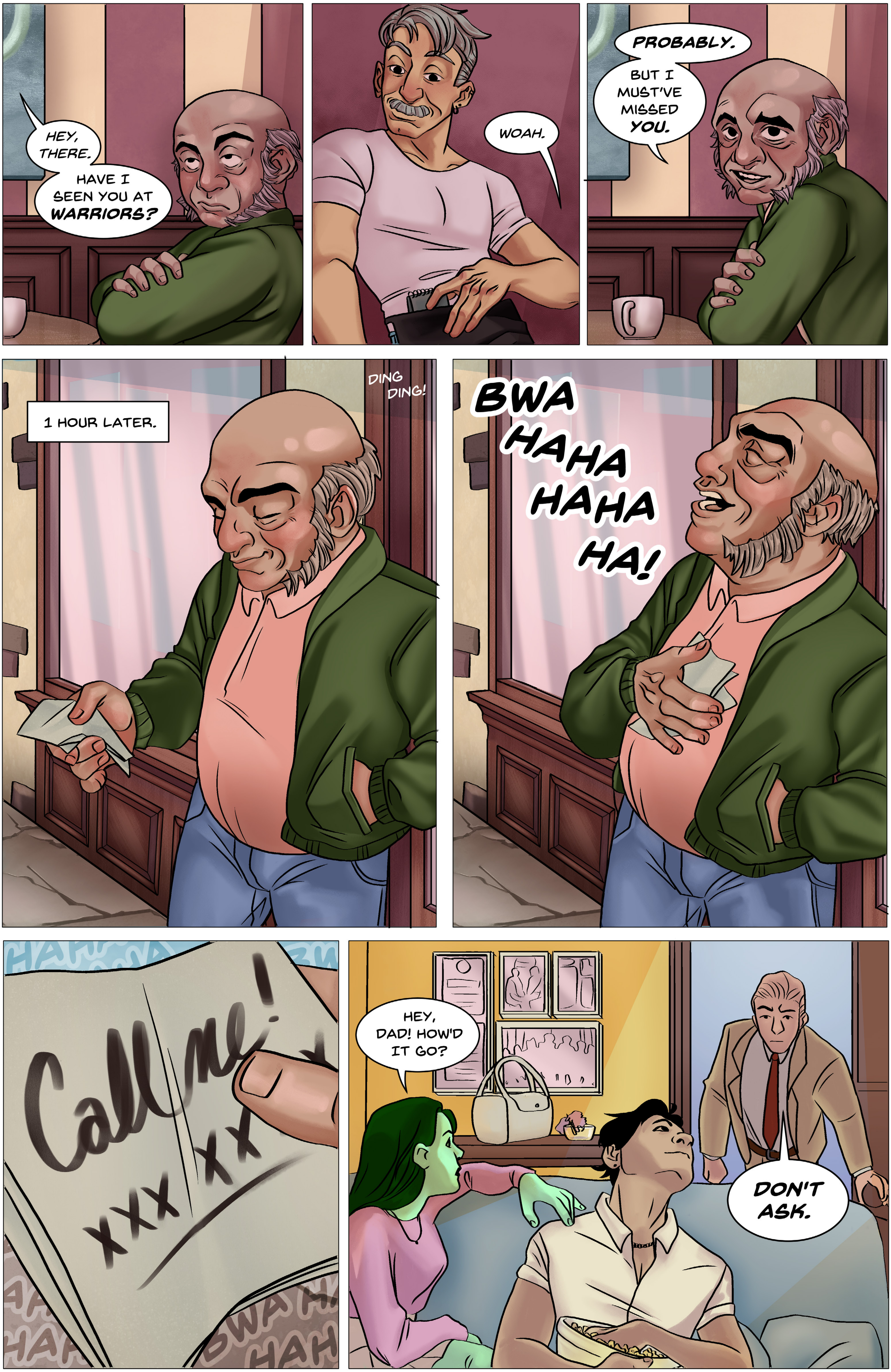
WORLD'S FINEST BY ZAI_DOODLES

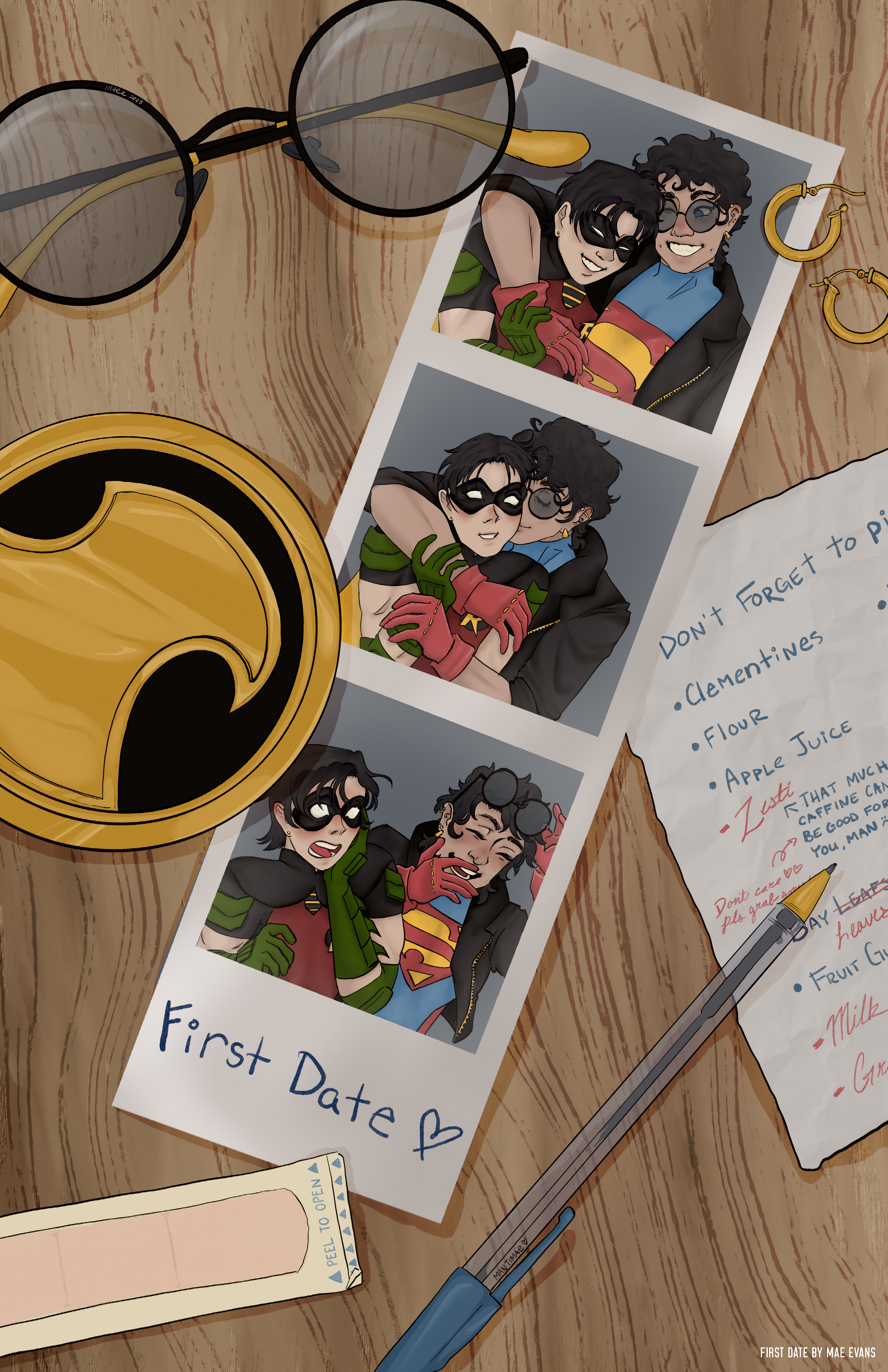

I'M GETTING *TOO OLD* FOR THIS.
BITE ME
FOR WHAT?
COMING TO *LEATHER NIGHT?*
NO!
THE WHOLE *BAR DATING* THING.
wish you were here
I CAN SET YOU UP WITH SOMEONE WHO WOULD ***NEVER*** DO A BAR HOOKUP.
LIKE I'D AGREE TO THAT.
C'MON! HE'S AGE APPROPRIATE!
FINE!
JUST DON'T MAKE ME REGRET THIS.


DATING OVER SIXTY
STORY BY
TAYLOR S.G.
ART & LETTERING BY
TJ BELL
INKS BY
EXISTENTIAL-ARCADE
I REGRET THIS *ALREADY.*
OBERON?
YEAH, YOU MUST BE...
...ALAN SCOTT.
GUY LEFT OUT SOME IMPORTANT DETAILS.
I'M MORE OF A ***BIG PICTURE*** PERSON.
AIN'T I A STINKER?

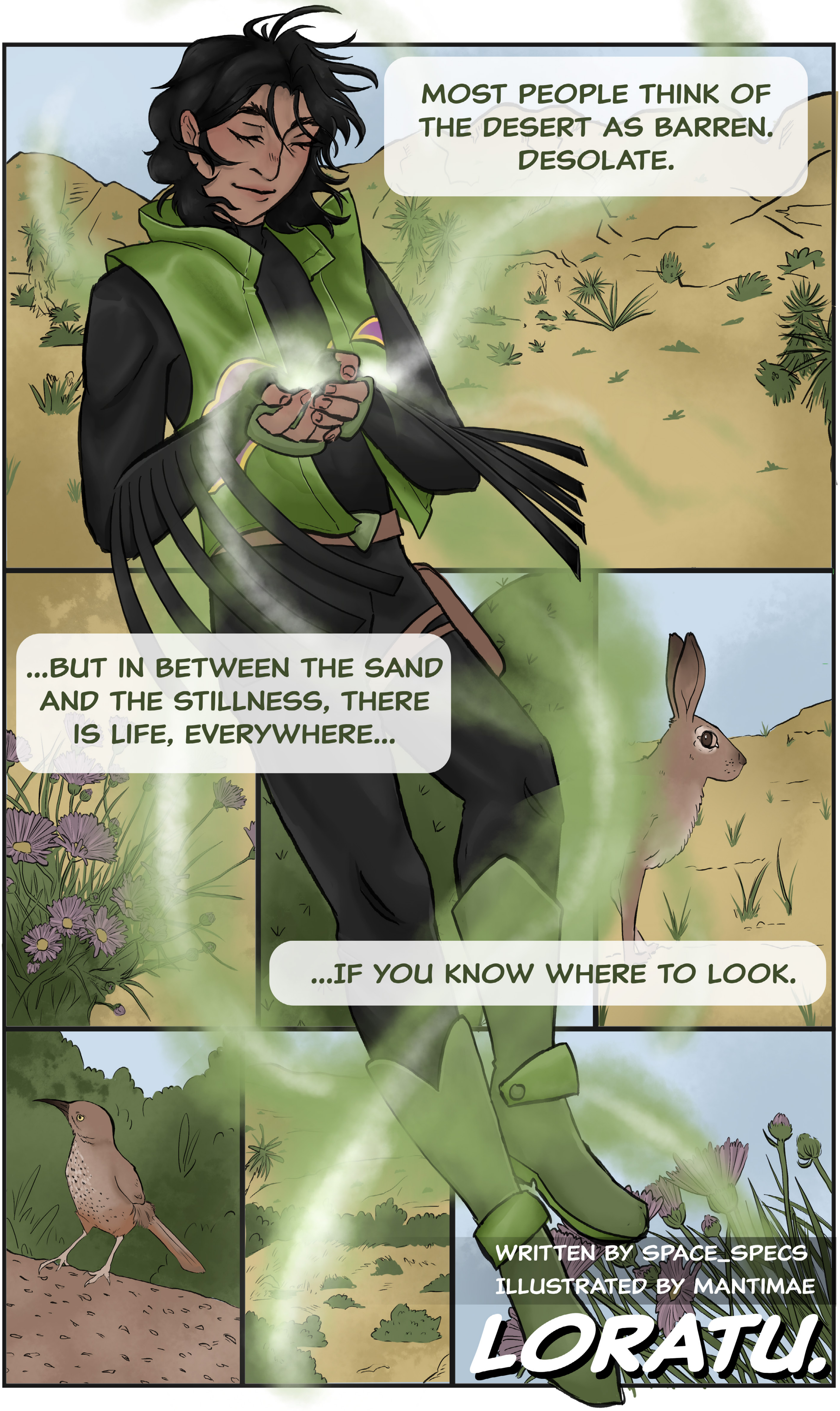

SO, GUY SAID YOU'D BEEN IN THE BUSINESS A WHILE?
I'VE BEEN ACTIVE SINCE WORLD WAR 2.
PTFF
YOU DON'T LOOK IT, THAT'S FOR SURE.
I SUPPOSE YOU NEVER SERVED.
PROBABLY WOULD'VE TOLD YOU TO JOIN THE CIRCUS.
HA.
I **WAS** IN THE CIRCUS.
WHERE I WORKED WITH ONE OF THE GREATEST MEN TO EVER LIVE.
FROM THERE I WENT ON TO TRAIN ***GODS*** FROM ***OTHER WORLDS***
AND THEN MANAGE THE ***JUSTICE LEAGUE.***
SO I WAS A ***LITTLE BUSY.***


...
I SUPPOSE THERE IS NO *COMING BACK* FROM THAT?
NOT REALLY.
WELL, THEN.
SIGH


HEY, THERE.
HAVE I SEEN YOU AT WARRIORS?
WOAH.
PROBABLY.
BUT I MUST'VE MISSED YOU.
1 HOUR LATER.
DING DING!
BWA HAHA HAHA HA!
Call me!
xxx xx
HEY, DAD! HOW'D IT GO?
DON'T ASK.

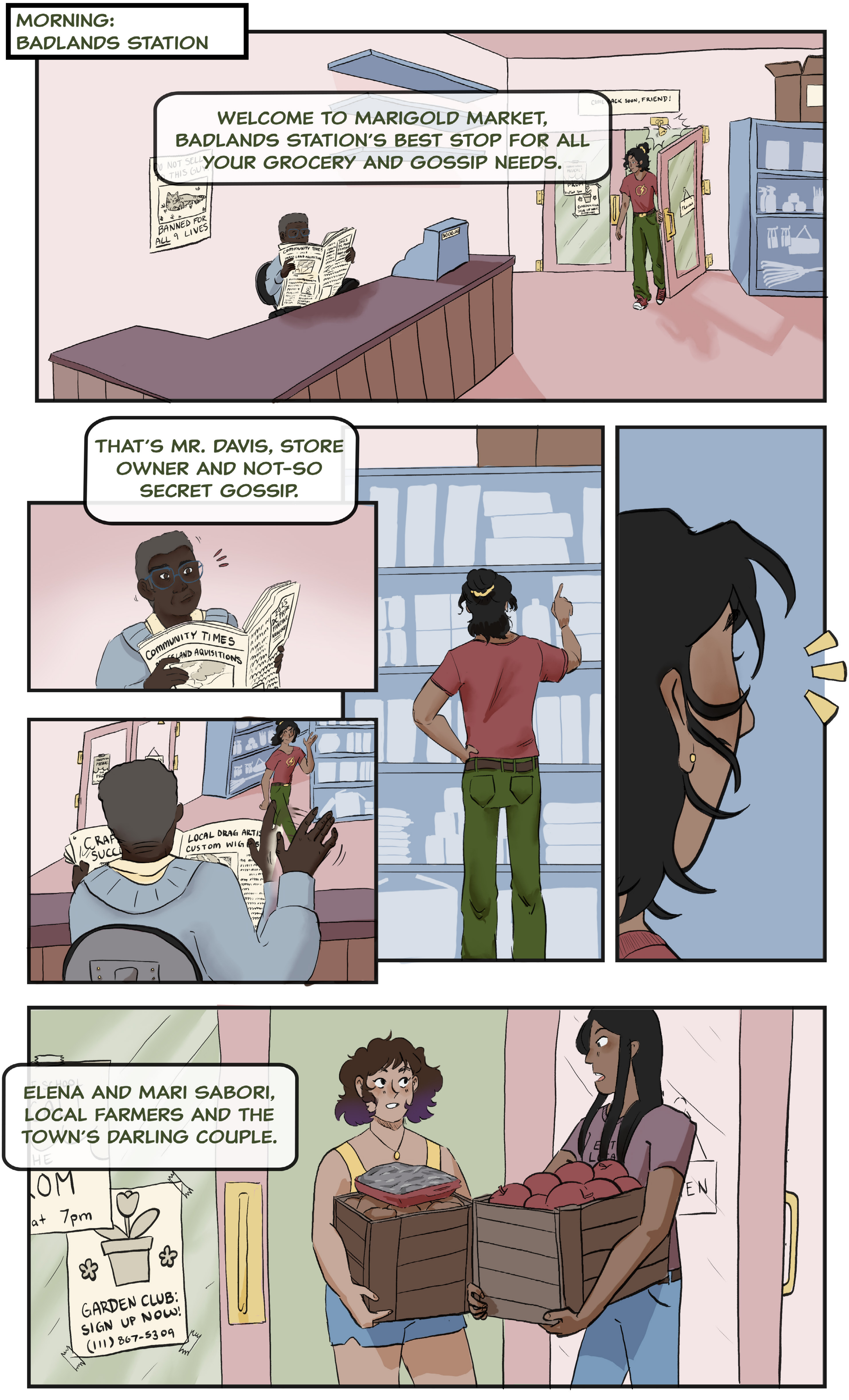

Mae 2025
First Date ♡
Don't Forget to pi
• Clementines
• Flour
• Apple Juice
• Zesti
↖ THAT MUCH CAFFINE CAN BE GOOD FOR YOU, MAN
Don't care ♡♡ pls grab
• BAY ~~LEAFS~~
leaves
• FRUIT G
• Milk
• Gr
PEEL TO OPEN
MINTIMAE♡

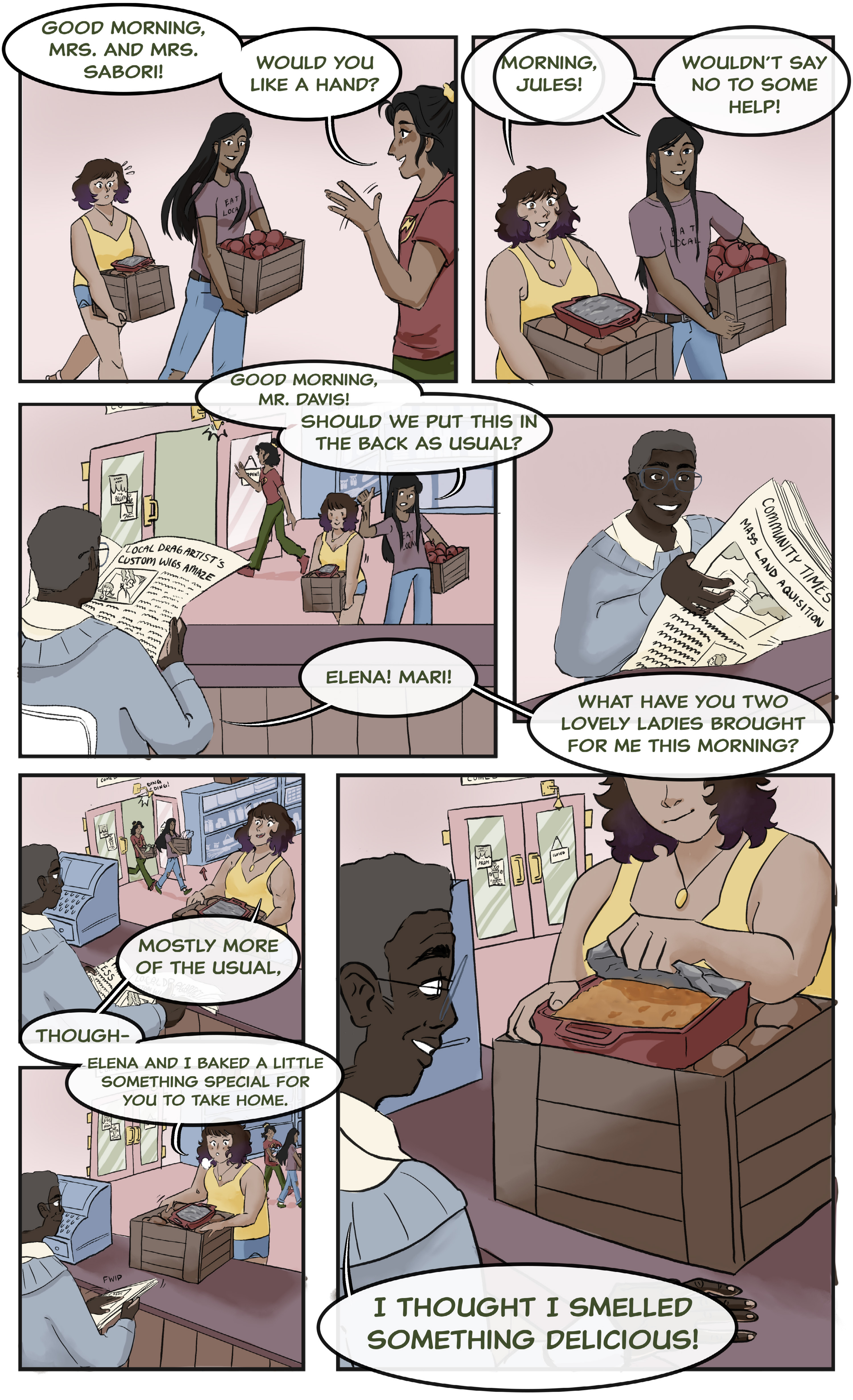
FIRST DATE BY MAE EVANS

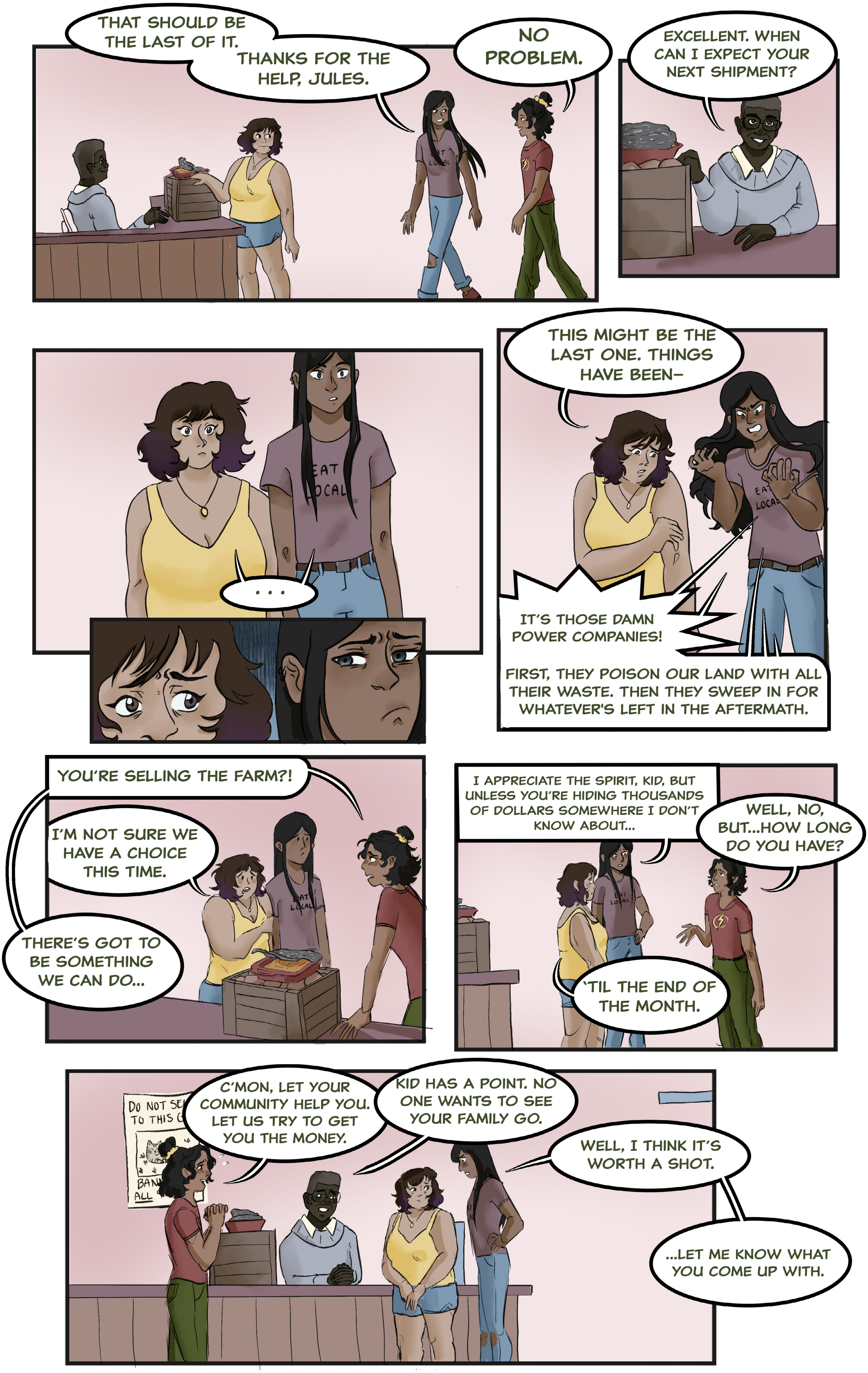

MOST PEOPLE THINK OF THE DESERT AS BARREN. DESOLATE.
...BUT IN BETWEEN THE SAND AND THE STILLNESS, THERE IS LIFE, EVERYWHERE...
...IF YOU KNOW WHERE TO LOOK.

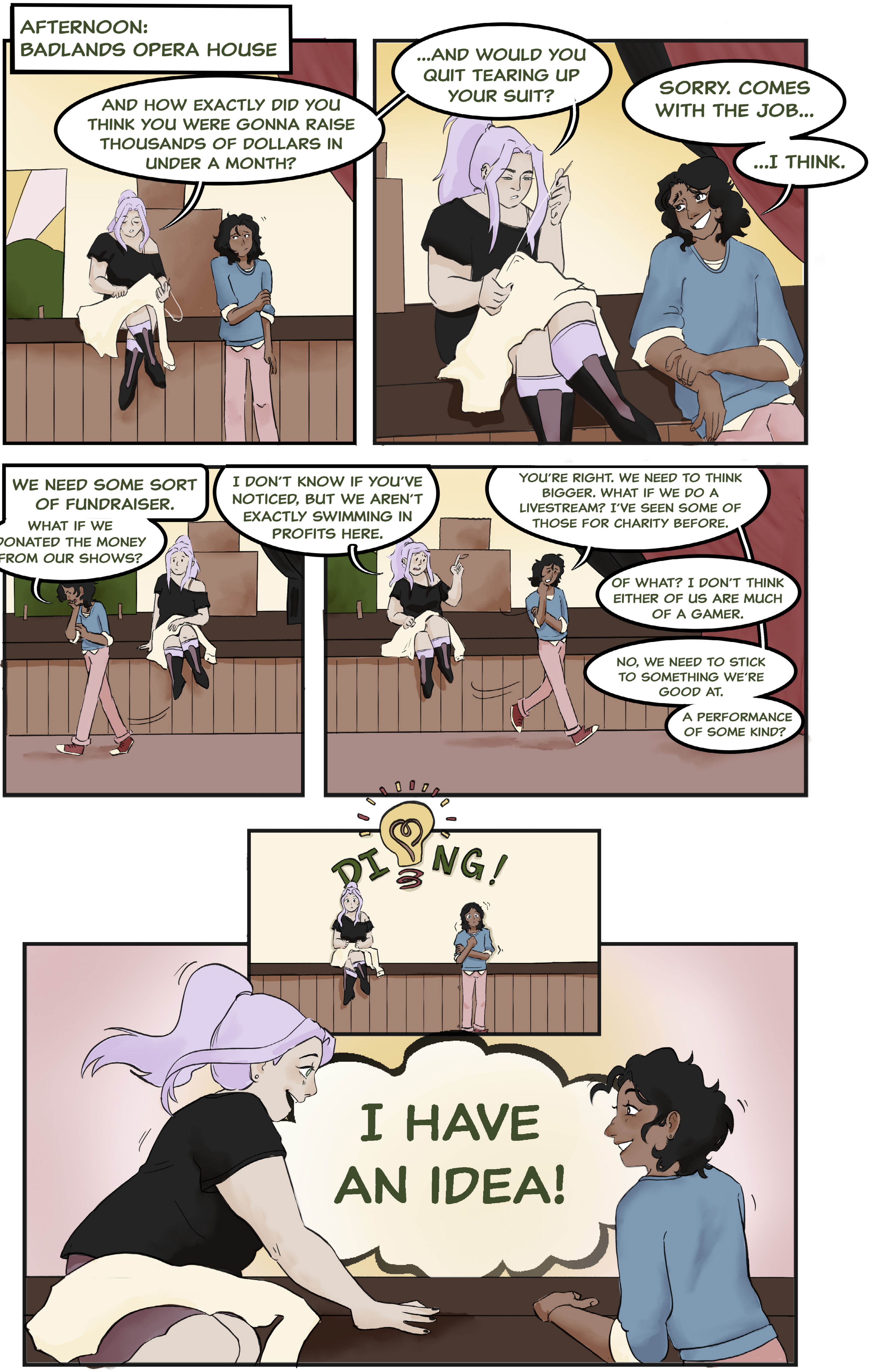
WRITTEN BY SPACE_SPECS
ILLUSTRATED BY MANTIMAE

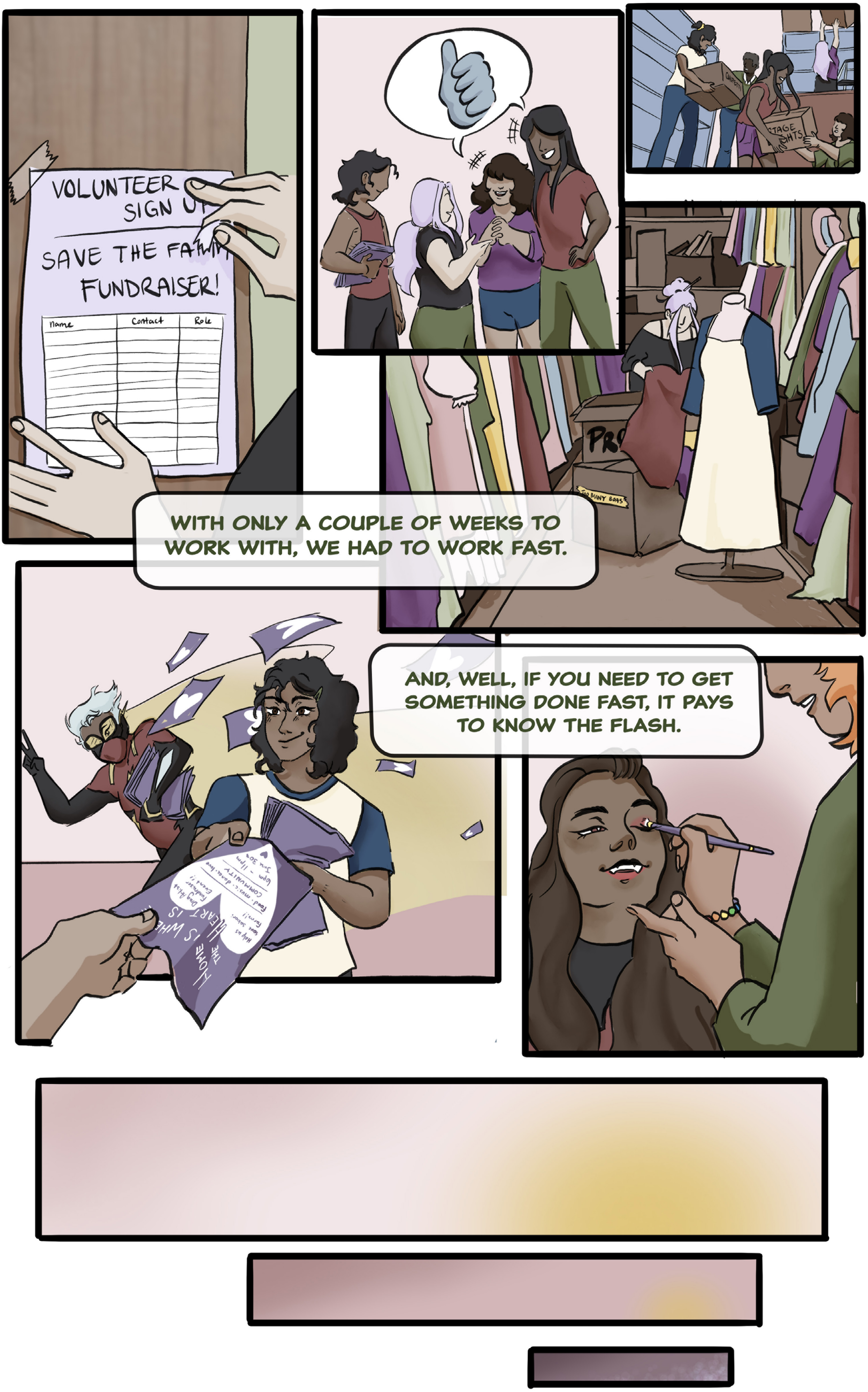
LORATU.

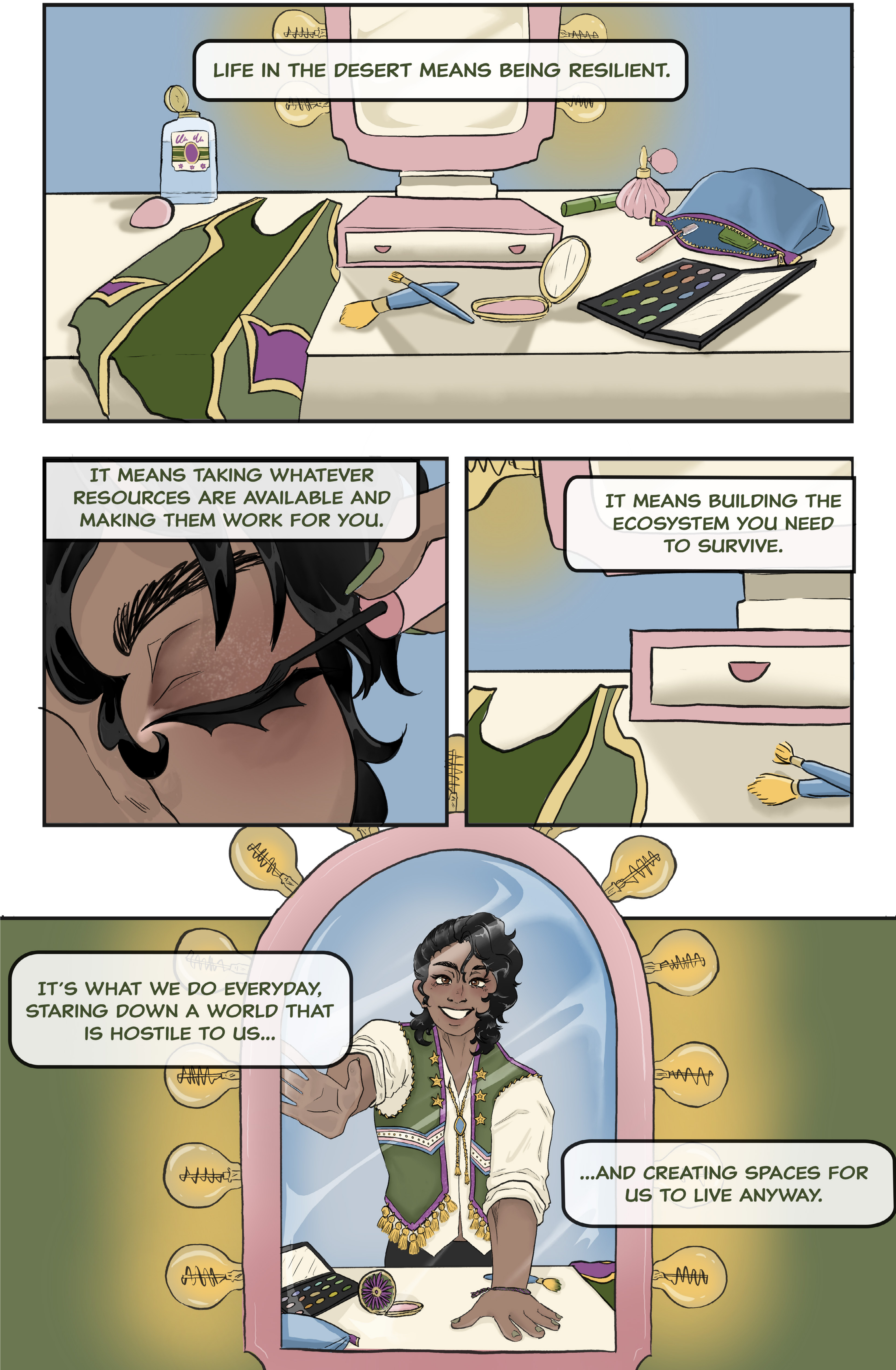

MORNING:
BADLANDS STATION
WELCOME TO MARIGOLD MARKET, BADLANDS STATION'S BEST STOP FOR ALL YOUR GROCERY AND GOSSIP NEEDS.
COME BACK SOON, FRIEND!
DO NOT SELL TO THIS GUY!
BANNED FOR ALL 9 LIVES
COMMUNITY TIMES
MASS LAND AQUISITION
2025 DC PRIDE FANZINE NOW OUT
$000.00
MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSICAL! THE PROM Fri/Sat 7pm
GARDEN CLUB SIGN UP NOW!
CLOSED
THAT'S MR. DAVIS, STORE OWNER AND NOT-SO SECRET GOSSIP.
COMMUNITY TIMES
LAND AQUISITIONS
2025 DC PRIDE FANZINE NOW OUT
CRAF SUCC
LOCAL DRAG ARTIS CUSTOM WIG
ELENA AND MARI SABORI, LOCAL FARMERS AND THE TOWN'S DARLING COUPLE.
OM
at 7pm
GARDEN CLUB: SIGN UP NOW! (111) 867-5309
EN

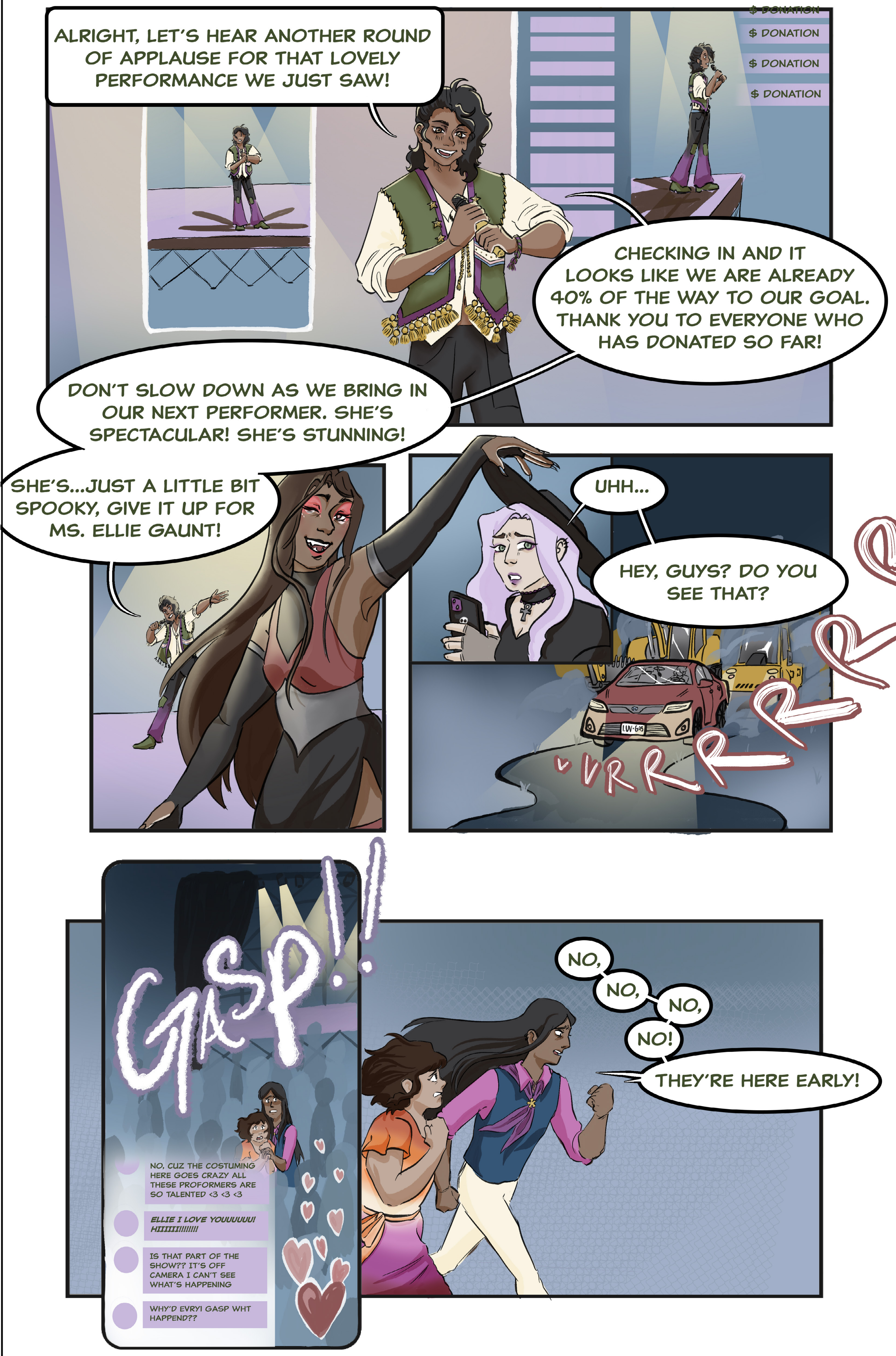

GOOD MORNING, MRS. AND MRS. SABORI!
WOULD YOU LIKE A HAND?
EAT LOCAL
MORNING, JULES!
WOULDN'T SAY NO TO SOME HELP!
EAT LOCAL
GOOD MORNING, MR. DAVIS!
SHOULD WE PUT THIS IN THE BACK AS USUAL?
OPEN!
PROM
LOCAL DRAG ARTIST'S CUSTOM WIGS AMAZE
EAT LOCAL
ELENA! MARI!
COMMUNITY TIMES
MASS LAND AQUISITION
WHAT HAVE YOU TWO LOVELY LADIES BROUGHT FOR ME THIS MORNING?
DING DING!
MOSTLY MORE OF THE USUAL,
THOUGH-
ELENA AND I BAKED A LITTLE SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR YOU TO TAKE HOME.
FWIP
PROM
CLOSED
I THOUGHT I SMELLED SOMETHING DELICIOUS!

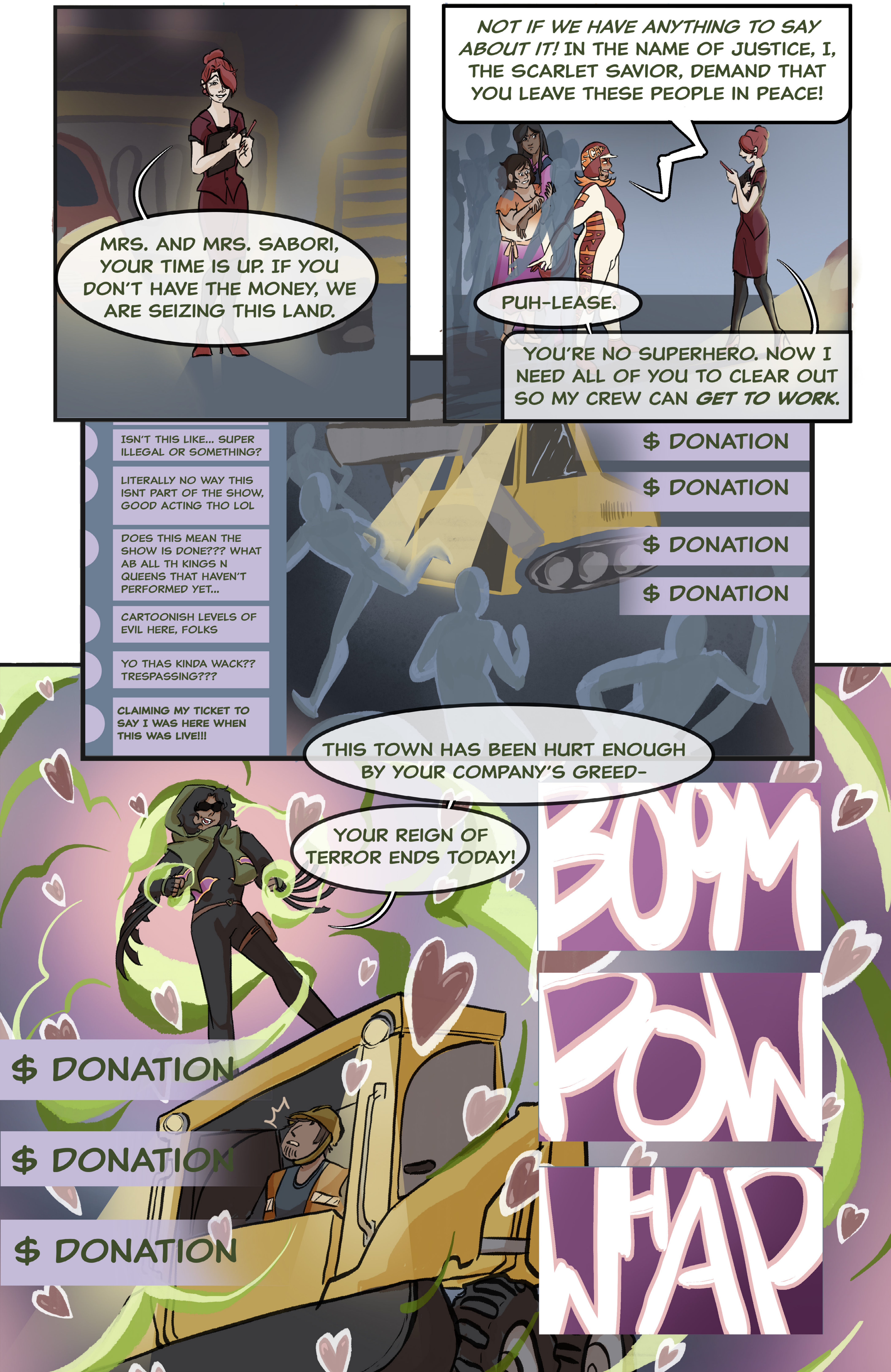

THAT SHOULD BE THE LAST OF IT.
THANKS FOR THE HELP, JULES.
NO PROBLEM.
EAT LOCAL
EXCELLENT. WHEN CAN I EXPECT YOUR NEXT SHIPMENT?
EAT LOCAL
. . .
THIS MIGHT BE THE LAST ONE. THINGS HAVE BEEN—
EAT LOCAL
IT'S THOSE DAMN POWER COMPANIES!
FIRST, THEY POISON OUR LAND WITH ALL THEIR WASTE. THEN THEY SWEEP IN FOR WHATEVER'S LEFT IN THE AFTERMATH.
YOU'RE SELLING THE FARM?!
I'M NOT SURE WE HAVE A CHOICE THIS TIME.
THERE'S GOT TO BE SOMETHING WE CAN DO...
EAT LOCAL
I APPRECIATE THE SPIRIT, KID, BUT UNLESS YOU'RE HIDING THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS SOMEWHERE I DON'T KNOW ABOUT...
WELL, NO, BUT...HOW LONG DO YOU HAVE?
'TIL THE END OF THE MONTH.
EAT LOCAL
DO NOT SE
TO THIS C
BAN
ALL
C'MON, LET YOUR COMMUNITY HELP YOU. LET US TRY TO GET YOU THE MONEY.
KID HAS A POINT. NO ONE WANTS TO SEE YOUR FAMILY GO.
WELL, I THINK IT'S WORTH A SHOT.
...LET ME KNOW WHAT YOU COME UP WITH.

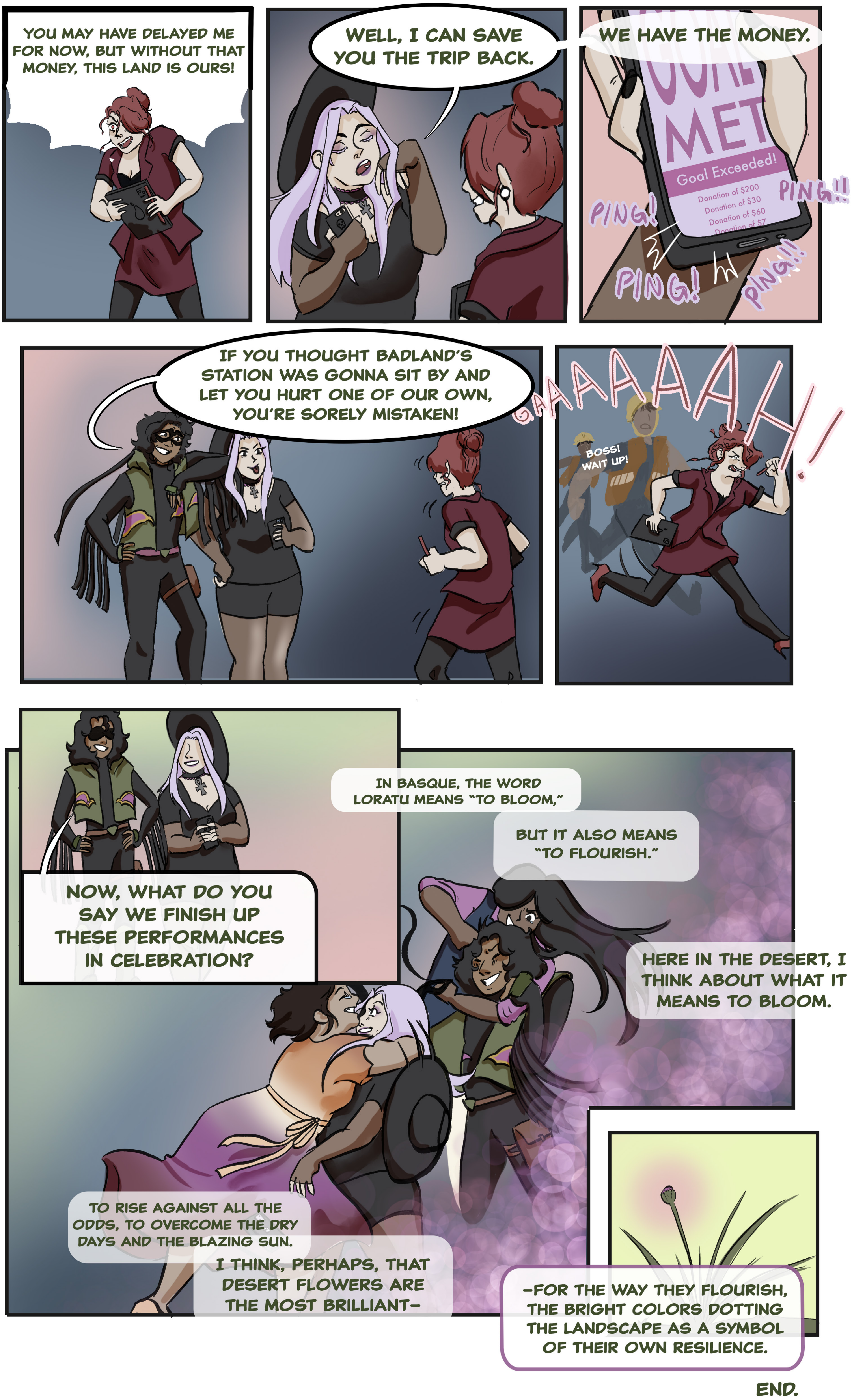

AFTERNOON:
BADLANDS OPERA HOUSE
AND HOW EXACTLY DID YOU THINK YOU WERE GONNA RAISE THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS IN UNDER A MONTH?
...AND WOULD YOU QUIT TEARING UP YOUR SUIT?
SORRY. COMES WITH THE JOB...
...I THINK.
WE NEED SOME SORT OF FUNDRAISER.
WHAT IF WE DONATED THE MONEY FROM OUR SHOWS?
I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'VE NOTICED, BUT WE AREN'T EXACTLY SWIMMING IN PROFITS HERE.
YOU'RE RIGHT. WE NEED TO THINK BIGGER. WHAT IF WE DO A LIVESTREAM? I'VE SEEN SOME OF THOSE FOR CHARITY BEFORE.
OF WHAT? I DON'T THINK EITHER OF US ARE MUCH OF A GAMER.
NO, WE NEED TO STICK TO SOMETHING WE'RE GOOD AT.
A PERFORMANCE OF SOME KIND?
DING!
I HAVE AN IDEA!

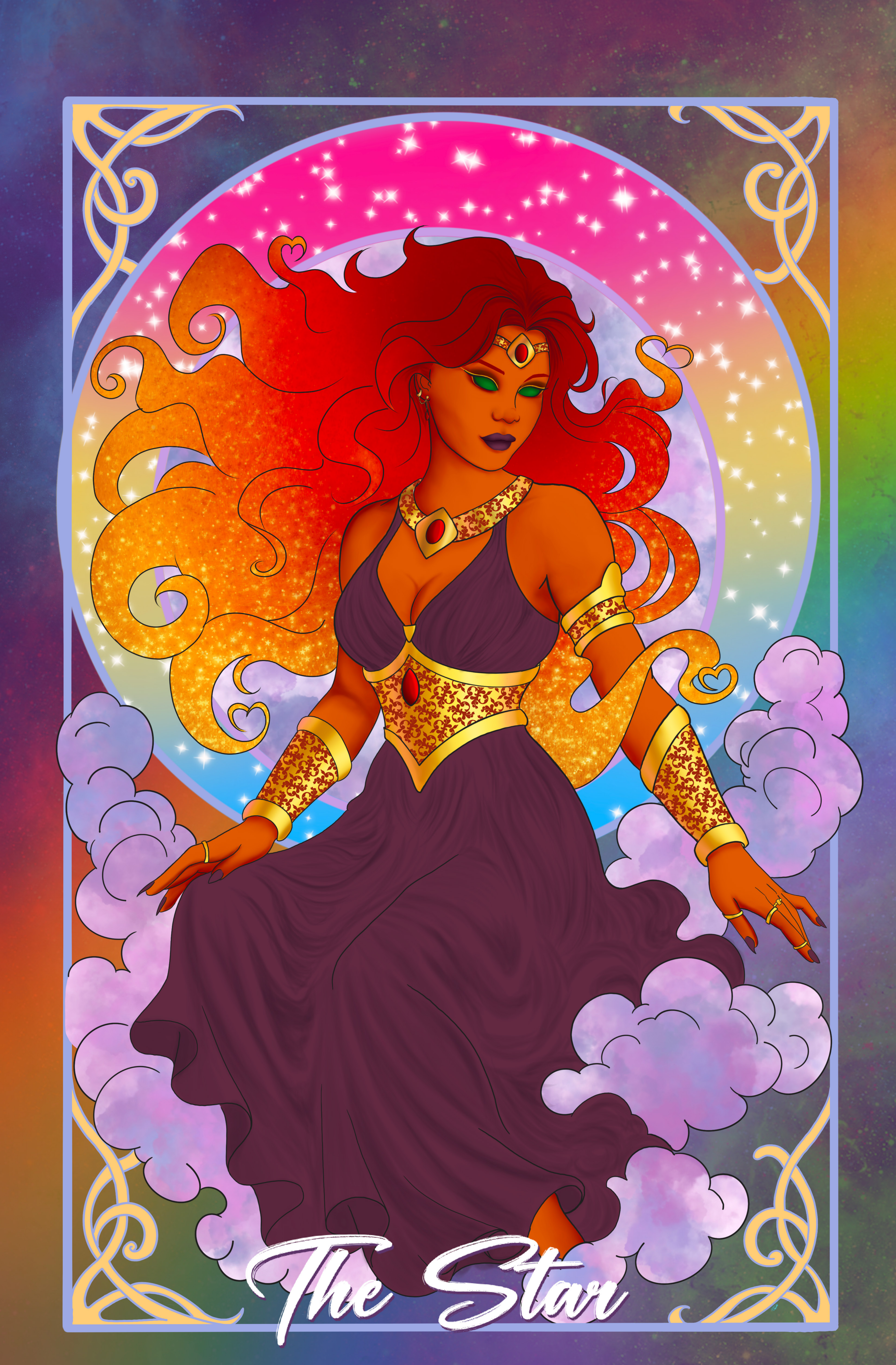

VOLUNTEER SIGN U
SAVE THE FA
FUNDRAISER!
Name
Contact
Role
CONFETTI
STAGE LIGHTS
PR
TOO MANY BOAS
WITH ONLY A COUPLE OF WEEKS TO WORK WITH, WE HAD TO WORK FAST.
HOME IS WHE THE HEART IS
Help us Save Saloon Farm!!
Drag Artist Fundraiser Event!!
Food · music · dance · love
COMMUNITY
6pm - 11pm
Jun 30th
AND, WELL, IF YOU NEED TO GET SOMETHING DONE FAST, IT PAYS TO KNOW THE FLASH.


LIFE IN THE DESERT MEANS BEING RESILIENT.
IT MEANS TAKING WHATEVER RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE AND MAKING THEM WORK FOR YOU.
IT MEANS BUILDING THE ECOSYSTEM YOU NEED TO SURVIVE.
IT'S WHAT WE DO EVERYDAY, STARING DOWN A WORLD THAT IS HOSTILE TO US...
...AND CREATING SPACES FOR US TO LIVE ANYWAY.

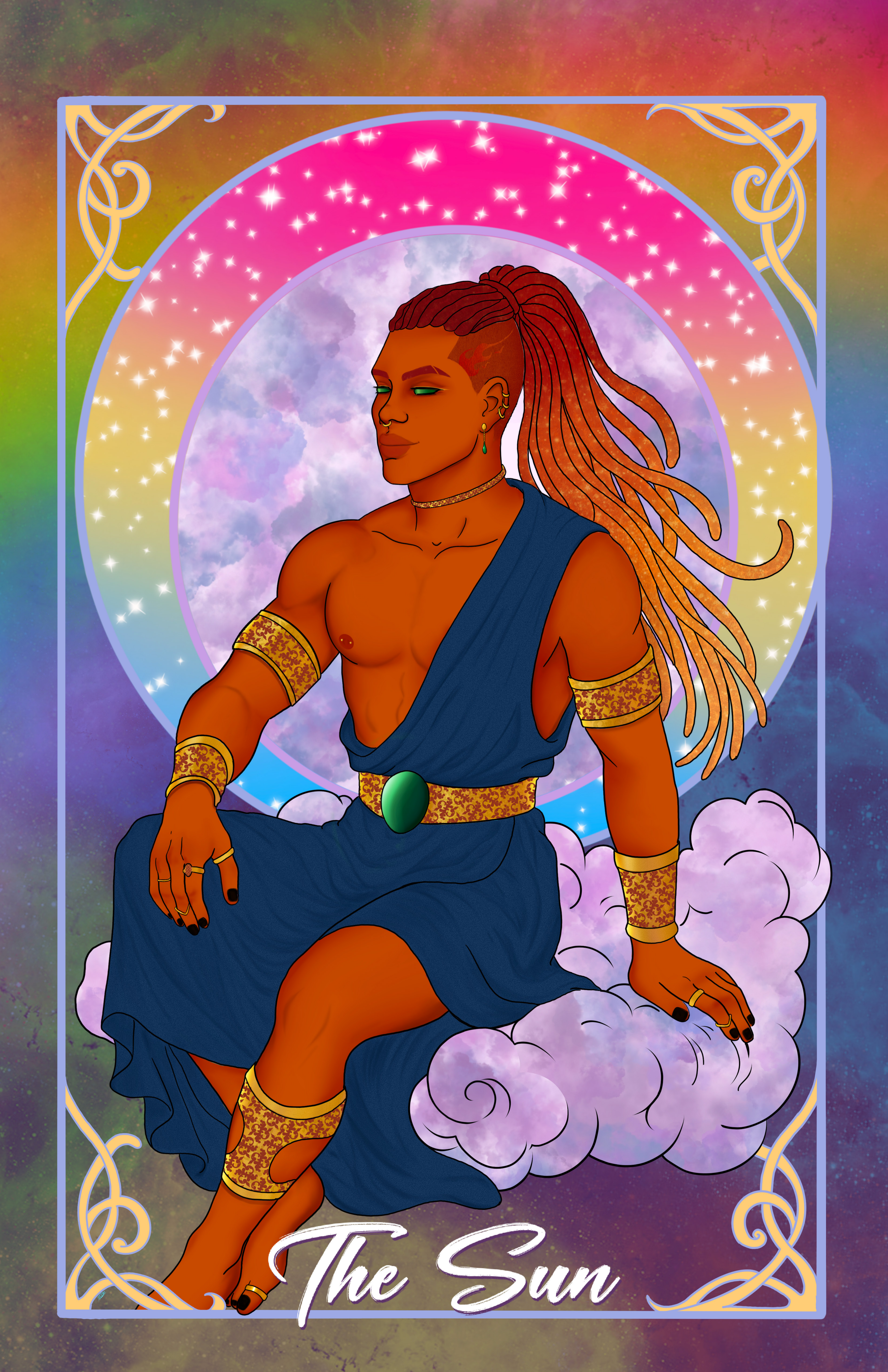

ALRIGHT, LET'S HEAR ANOTHER ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR THAT LOVELY PERFORMANCE WE JUST SAW!
$ DONATION
$ DONATION
$ DONATION
$ DONATION
CHECKING IN AND IT LOOKS LIKE WE ARE ALREADY 40% OF THE WAY TO OUR GOAL. THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS DONATED SO FAR!
DON'T SLOW DOWN AS WE BRING IN OUR NEXT PERFORMER. SHE'S SPECTACULAR! SHE'S STUNNING!
SHE'S...JUST A LITTLE BIT SPOOKY, GIVE IT UP FOR MS. ELLIE GAUNT!
UHH...
HEY, GUYS? DO YOU SEE THAT?
VRRRRRRR
GASP!!
NO, CUZ THE COSTUMING HERE GOES CRAZY ALL THESE PROFORMERS ARE SO TALENTED <3 <3 <3
ELLIE I LOVE YOUUUUUU! HIIIIII!!!!!!!!
IS THAT PART OF THE SHOW?? IT'S OFF CAMERA I CAN'T SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING
WHY'D EVRY1 GASP WHT HAPPEND??
NO,
NO,
NO,
NO!
THEY'RE HERE EARLY!

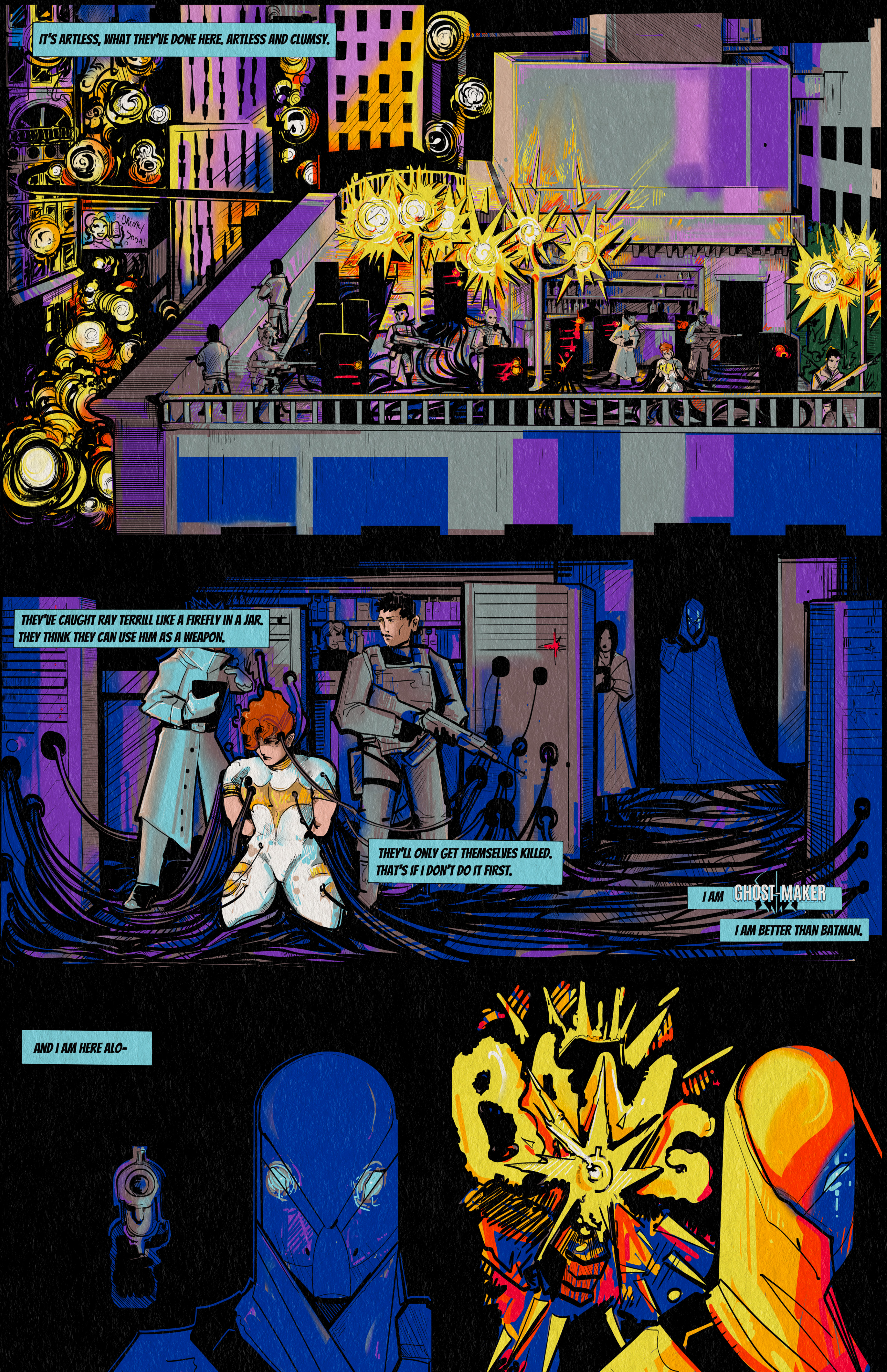

MRS. AND MRS. SABORI, YOUR TIME IS UP. IF YOU DON'T HAVE THE MONEY, WE ARE SEIZING THIS LAND.
NOT IF WE HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT! IN THE NAME OF JUSTICE, I, THE SCARLET SAVIOR, DEMAND THAT YOU LEAVE THESE PEOPLE IN PEACE!
PUH-LEASE.
YOU'RE NO SUPERHERO. NOW I NEED ALL OF YOU TO CLEAR OUT SO MY CREW CAN ***GET TO WORK.***
ISN'T THIS LIKE... SUPER ILLEGAL OR SOMETHING?
LITERALLY NO WAY THIS ISNT PART OF THE SHOW, GOOD ACTING THO LOL
DOES THIS MEAN THE SHOW IS DONE??? WHAT AB ALL TH KINGS N QUEENS THAT HAVEN'T PERFORMED YET...
CARTOONISH LEVELS OF EVIL HERE, FOLKS
YO THAS KINDA WACK?? TRESPASSING???
CLAIMING MY TICKET TO SAY I WAS HERE WHEN THIS WAS LIVE!!!
$ DONATION
$ DONATION
$ DONATION
$ DONATION
THIS TOWN HAS BEEN HURT ENOUGH BY YOUR COMPANY'S GREED-
YOUR REIGN OF TERROR ENDS TODAY!
$ DONATION
$ DONATION
$ DONATION
BOOM
POW
WHAP

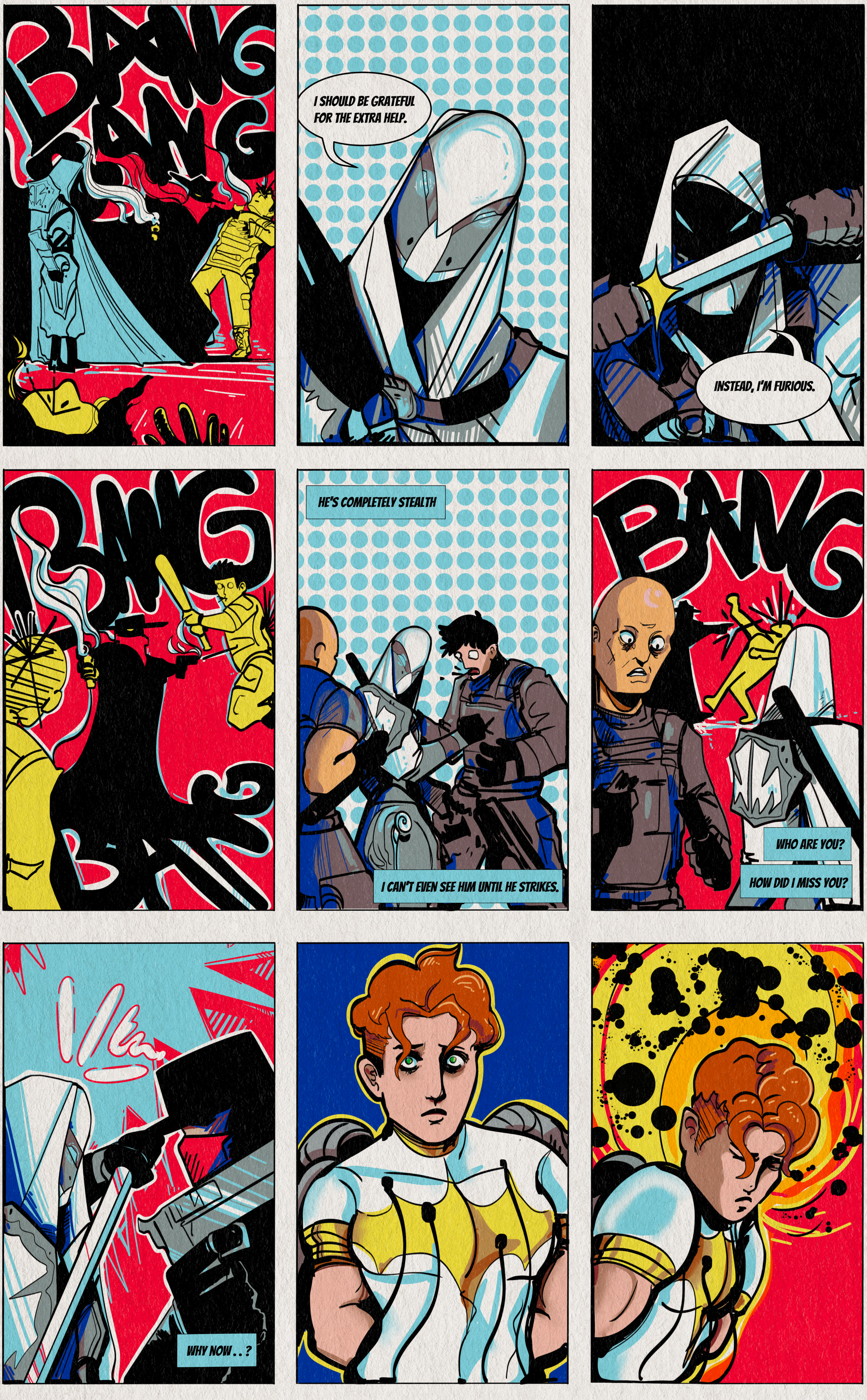

YOU MAY HAVE DELAYED ME FOR NOW, BUT WITHOUT THAT MONEY, THIS LAND IS OURS!
WELL, I CAN SAVE YOU THE TRIP BACK.
WE HAVE THE MONEY.
MET
Goal Exceeded!
Donation of $200
Donation of $30
Donation of $60
Donation of $7
PING!
PING!!
PING!
PING!!
IF YOU THOUGHT BADLAND'S STATION WAS GONNA SIT BY AND LET YOU HURT ONE OF OUR OWN, YOU'RE SORELY MISTAKEN!
GAAAAAAAH!!
BOSS! WAIT UP!
NOW, WHAT DO YOU SAY WE FINISH UP THESE PERFORMANCES IN CELEBRATION?
IN BASQUE, THE WORD LORATU MEANS "TO BLOOM,"
BUT IT ALSO MEANS "TO FLOURISH."
HERE IN THE DESERT, I THINK ABOUT WHAT IT MEANS TO BLOOM.
TO RISE AGAINST ALL THE ODDS, TO OVERCOME THE DRY DAYS AND THE BLAZING SUN.
I THINK, PERHAPS, THAT DESERT FLOWERS ARE THE MOST BRILLIANT–
–FOR THE WAY THEY FLOURISH, THE BRIGHT COLORS DOTTING THE LANDSCAPE AS A SYMBOL OF THEIR OWN RESILIENCE.
END.

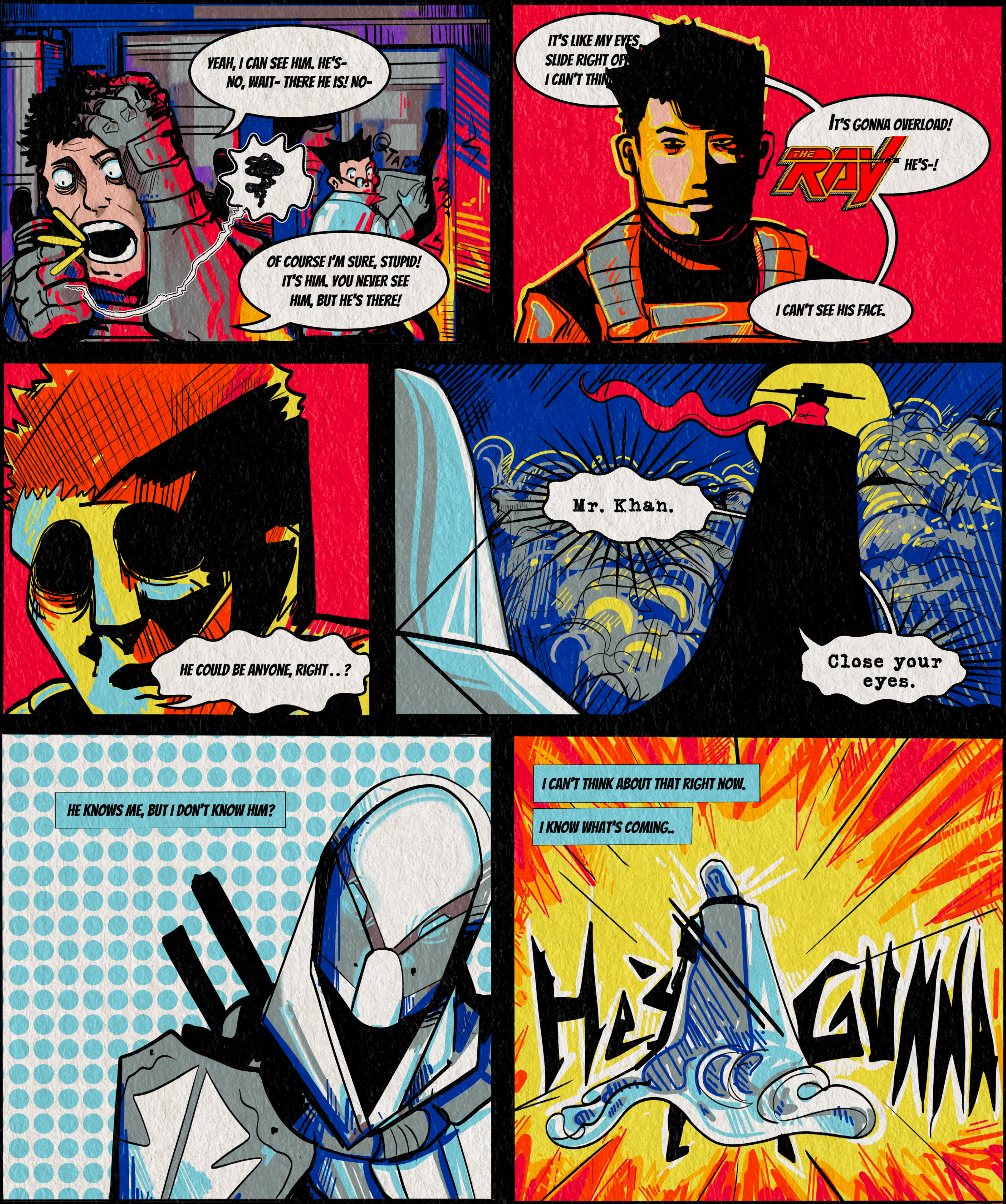


THE SUN & THE STAR BY MIGHTYIRONSTAR

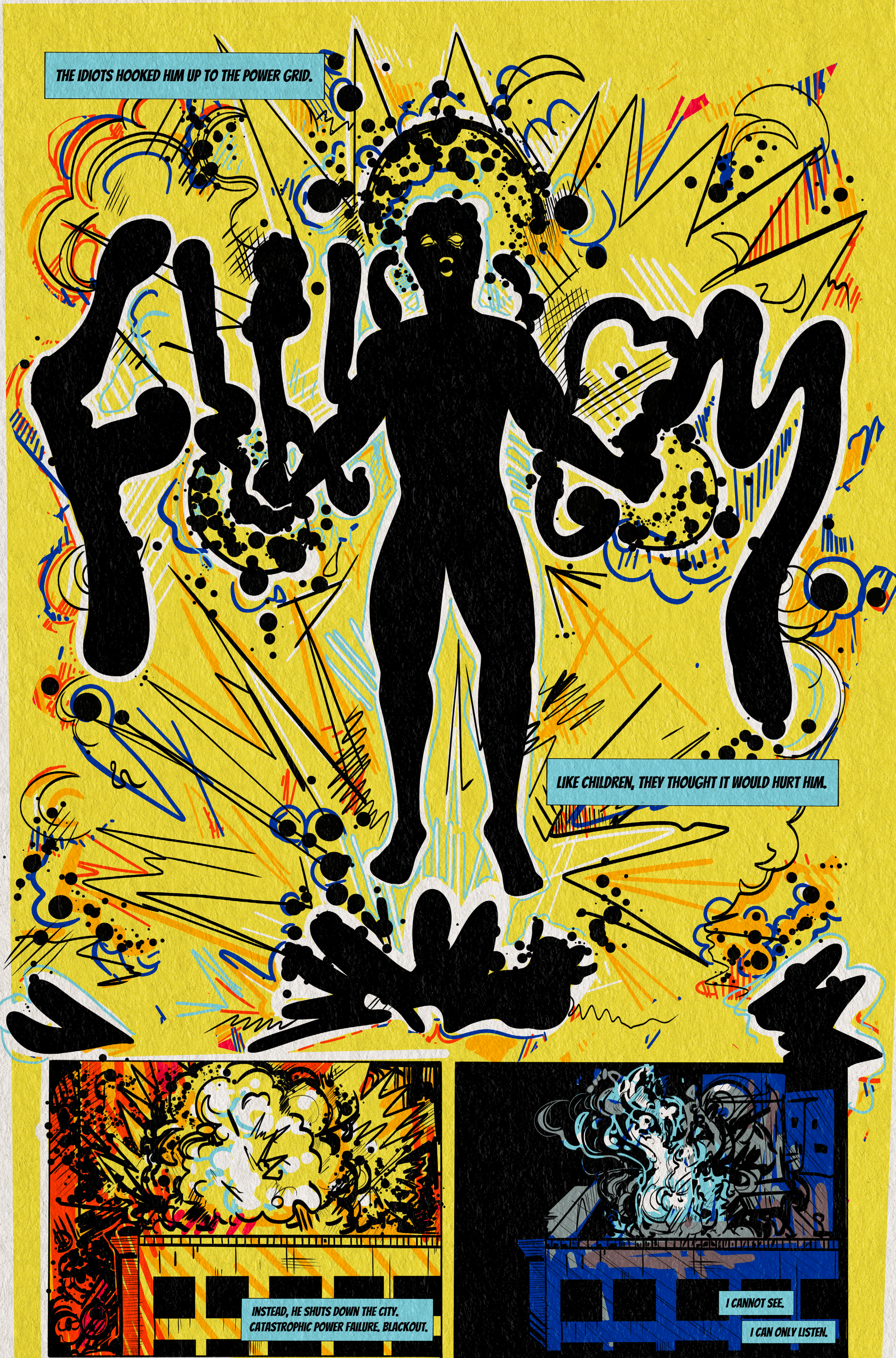

The Sun

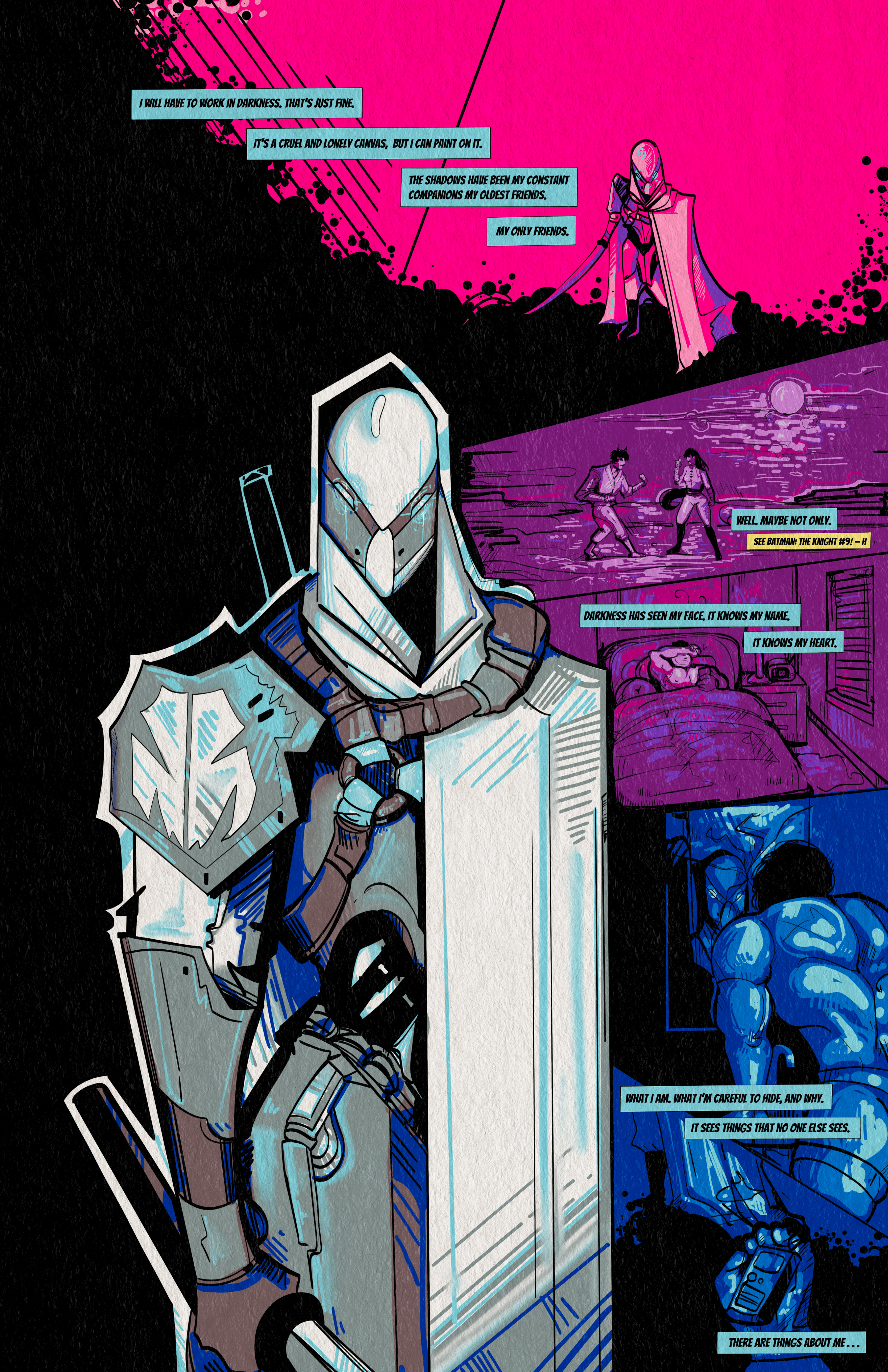

IT'S ARTLESS, WHAT THEY'VE DONE HERE. ARTLESS AND CLUMSY.
DRINK! SODA!
THEY'VE CAUGHT RAY TERRILL LIKE A FIREFLY IN A JAR. THEY THINK THEY CAN USE HIM AS A WEAPON.
THEY'LL ONLY GET THEMSELVES KILLED. THAT'S IF I DON'T DO IT FIRST.
I AM GHOST-MAKER
I AM BETTER THAN BATMAN.
AND I AM HERE ALO-
BANG

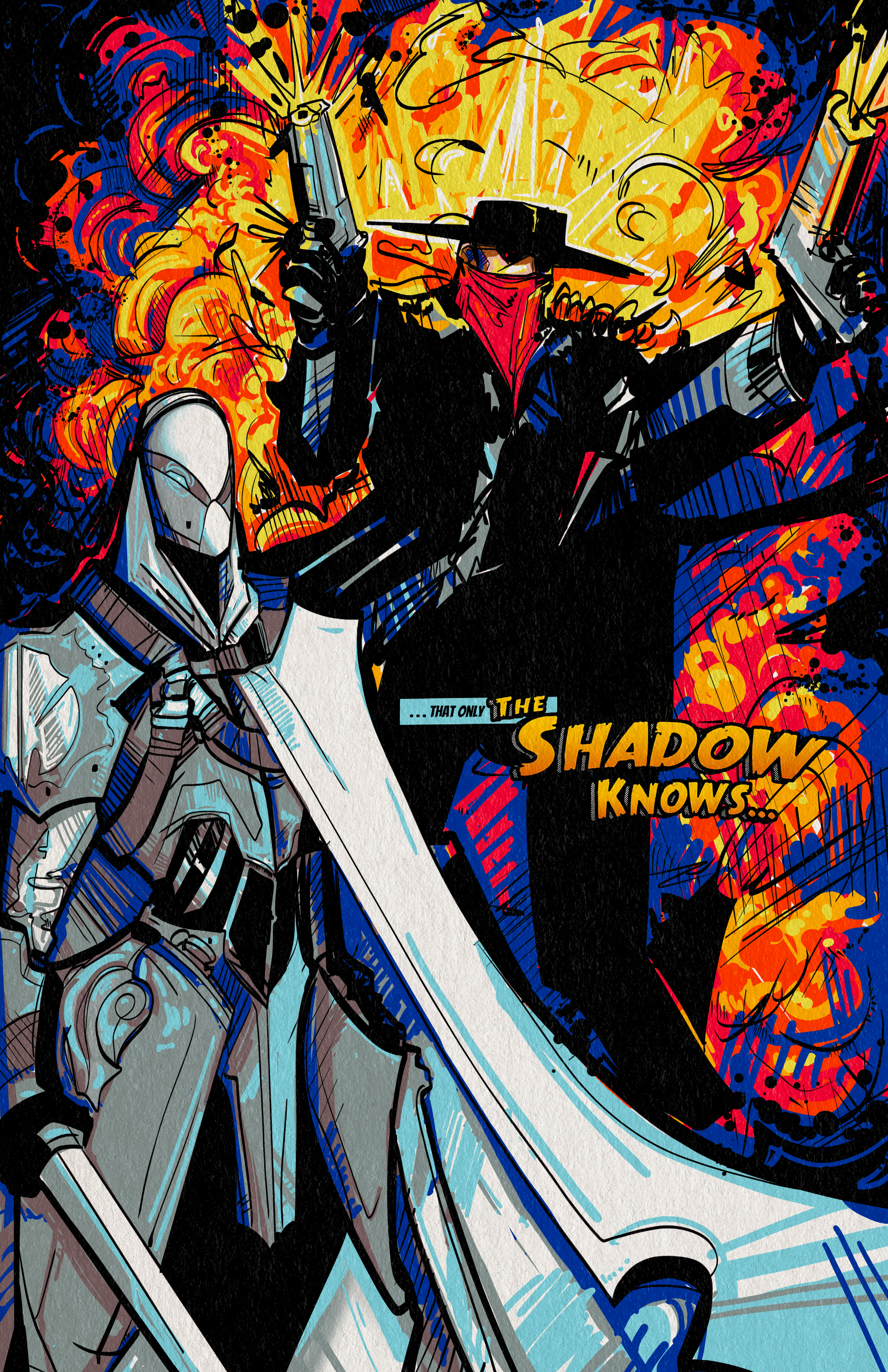

BANG
BANG
I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR THE EXTRA HELP.
INSTEAD, I'M FURIOUS.
BANG
BANG
HE'S COMPLETELY STEALTH
I CAN'T EVEN SEE HIM UNTIL HE STRIKES.
BANG
WHO ARE YOU?
HOW DID I MISS YOU?
WHY NOW . . ?

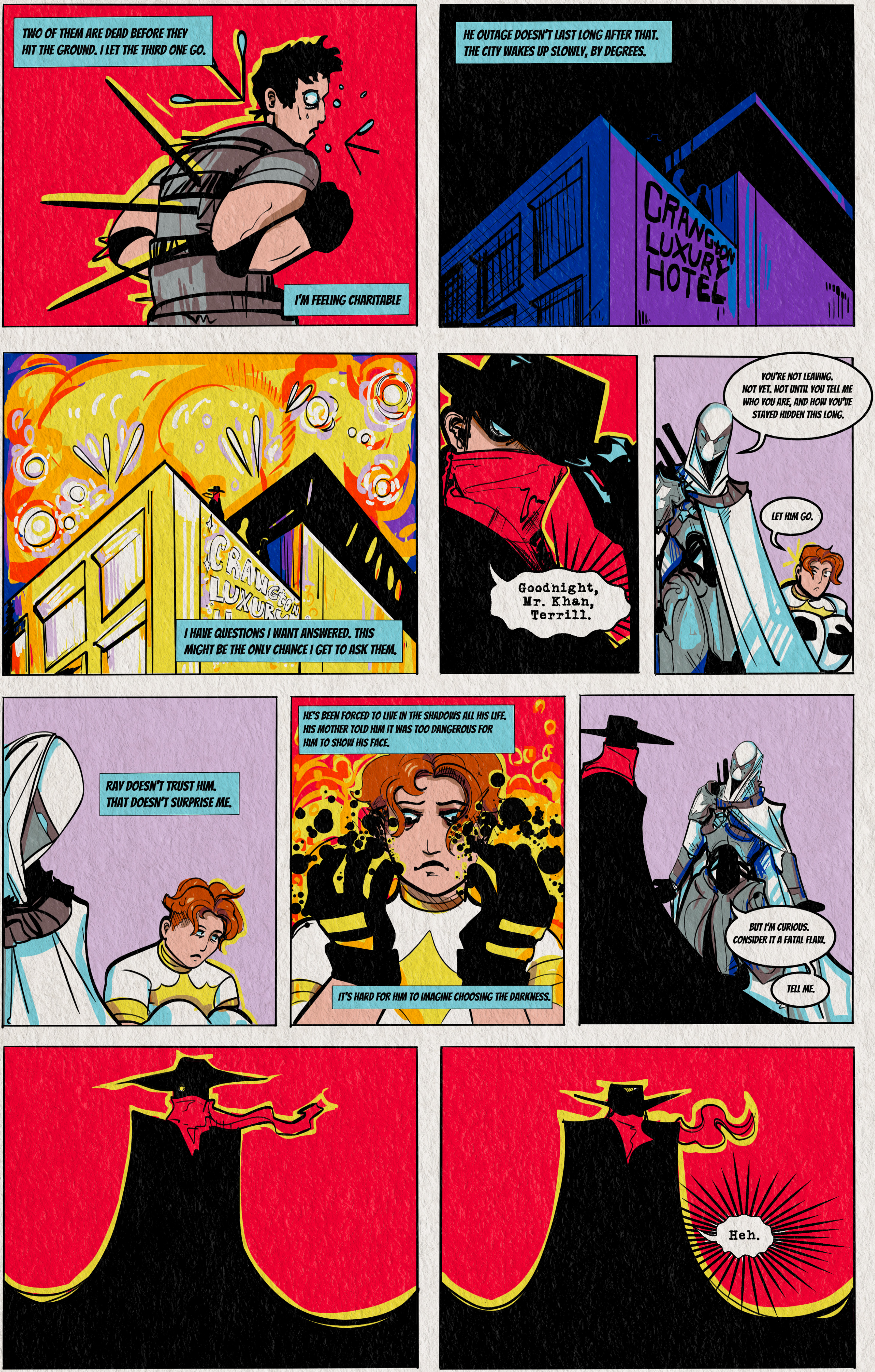

YEAH, I CAN SEE HIM. HE'S- NO, WAIT- THERE HE IS! NO-
OF COURSE I'M SURE, STUPID! IT'S HIM. YOU NEVER SEE HIM, BUT HE'S THERE!
IT'S LIKE MY EYES SLIDE RIGHT OF I CAN'T THIN
IT'S GONNA OVERLOAD! THE RAY'S HE'S-!
I CAN'T SEE HIS FACE.
HE COULD BE ANYONE, RIGHT . . ?
Mr. Khan.
Close your eyes.
HE KNOWS ME, BUT I DON'T KNOW HIM?
I CAN'T THINK ABOUT THAT RIGHT NOW.
I KNOW WHAT'S COMING..
HE'S GUNNA

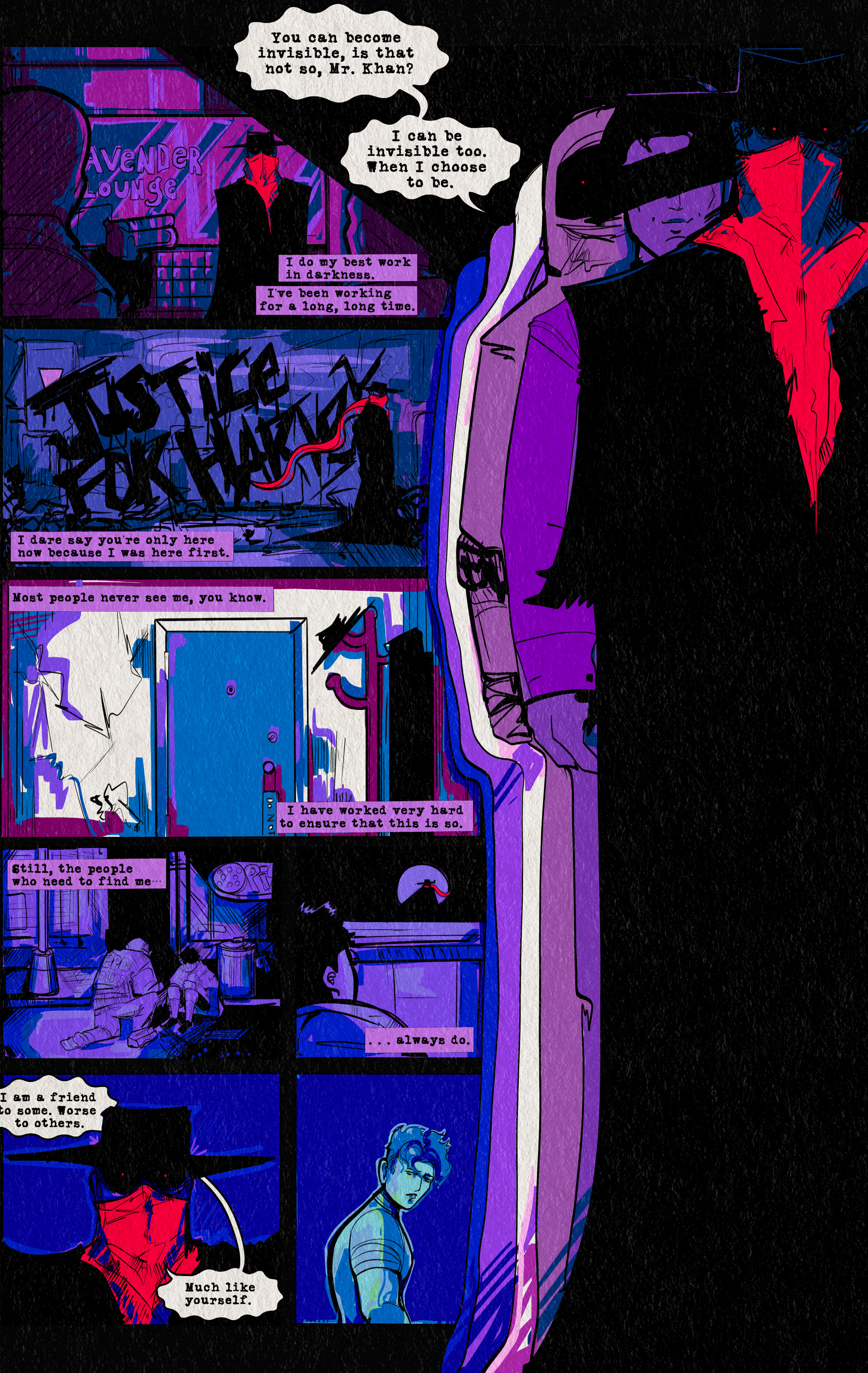
I CLOSE MY EYES.

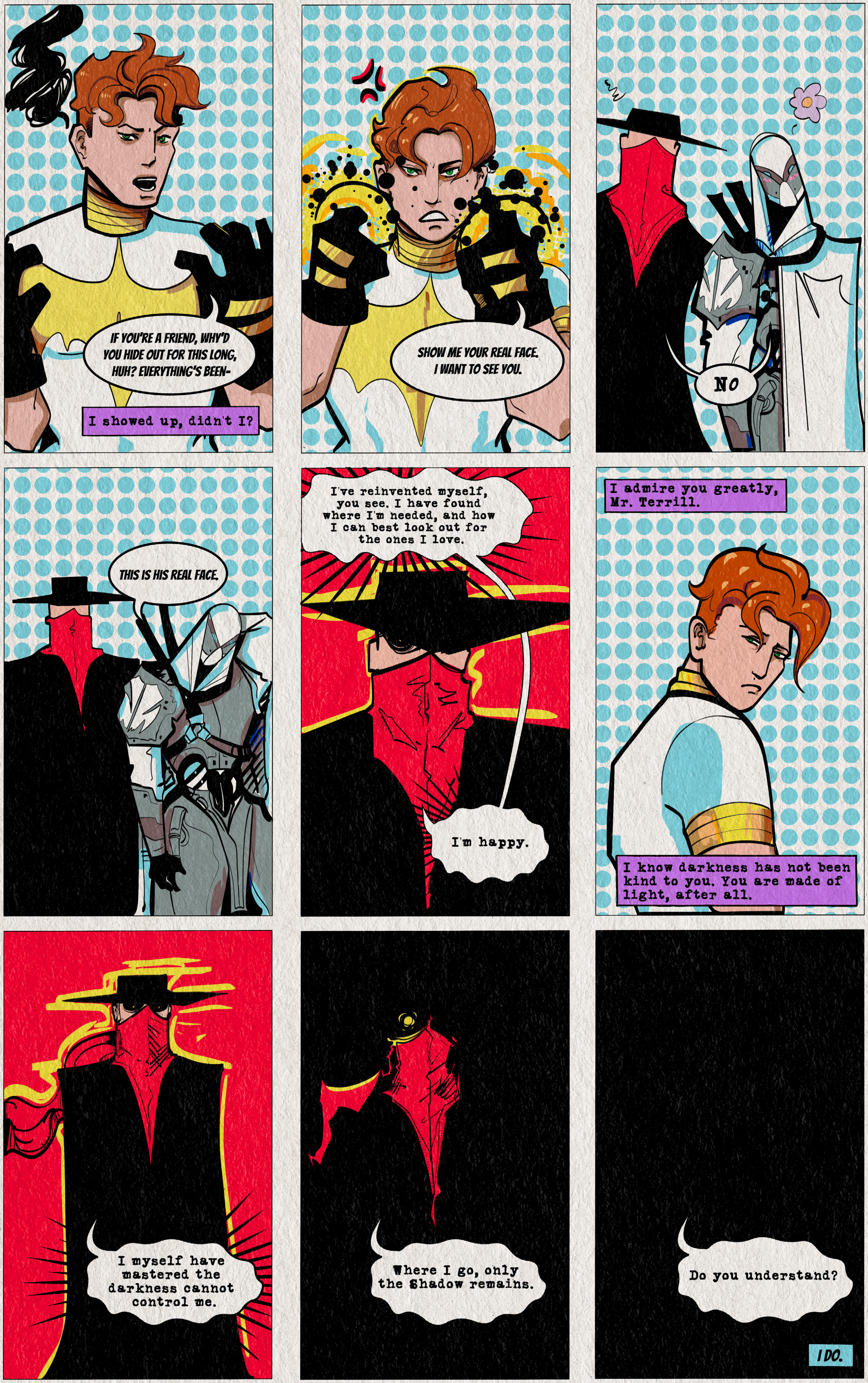

THE IDIOTS HOOKED HIM UP TO THE POWER GRID.
LIKE CHILDREN, THEY THOUGHT IT WOULD HURT HIM.
INSTEAD, HE SHUTS DOWN THE CITY. CATASTROPHIC POWER FAILURE. BLACKOUT.
I CANNOT SEE.
I CAN ONLY LISTEN.

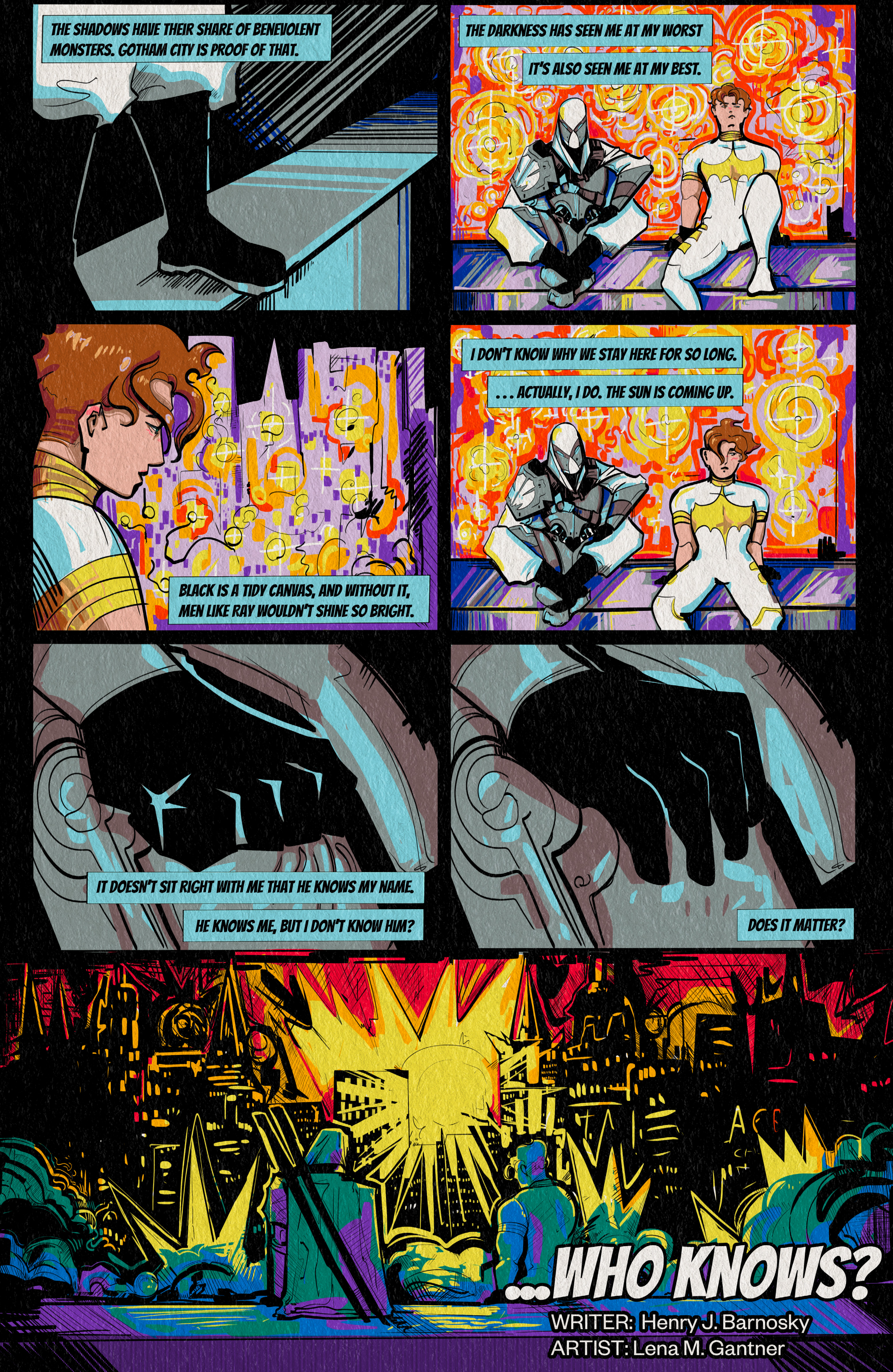

I WILL HAVE TO WORK IN DARKNESS. THAT'S JUST FINE.
IT'S A CRUEL AND LONELY CANVAS, BUT I CAN PAINT ON IT.
THE SHADOWS HAVE BEEN MY CONSTANT COMPANIONS MY OLDEST FRIENDS.
MY ONLY FRIENDS.
WELL, MAYBE NOT ONLY.
SEE BATMAN: THE KNIGHT #9! – H
DARKNESS HAS SEEN MY FACE. IT KNOWS MY NAME.
IT KNOWS MY HEART.
WHAT I AM. WHAT I'M CAREFUL TO HIDE, AND WHY.
IT SEES THINGS THAT NO ONE ELSE SEES.
THERE ARE THINGS ABOUT ME . . .


. . . THAT ONLY THE
SHADOW
KNOWS...


TWO OF THEM ARE DEAD BEFORE THEY HIT THE GROUND. I LET THE THIRD ONE GO.
I'M FEELING CHARITABLE
HE OUTAGE DOESN'T LAST LONG AFTER THAT. THE CITY WAKES UP SLOWLY, BY DEGREES.
CRANGTON LUXURY HOTEL
CRANGTON LUXURY
I HAVE QUESTIONS I WANT ANSWERED. THIS MIGHT BE THE ONLY CHANCE I GET TO ASK THEM.
Goodnight, Mr. Khan, Terrill.
YOU'RE NOT LEAVING. NOT YET. NOT UNTIL YOU TELL ME WHO YOU ARE, AND HOW YOU'VE STAYED HIDDEN THIS LONG.
LET HIM GO.
RAY DOESN'T TRUST HIM. THAT DOESN'T SURPRISE ME.
HE'S BEEN FORCED TO LIVE IN THE SHADOWS ALL HIS LIFE. HIS MOTHER TOLD HIM IT WAS TOO DANGEROUS FOR HIM TO SHOW HIS FACE.
IT'S HARD FOR HIM TO IMAGINE CHOOSING THE DARKNESS.
BUT I'M CURIOUS. CONSIDER IT A FATAL FLAW.
TELL ME.
Heh.

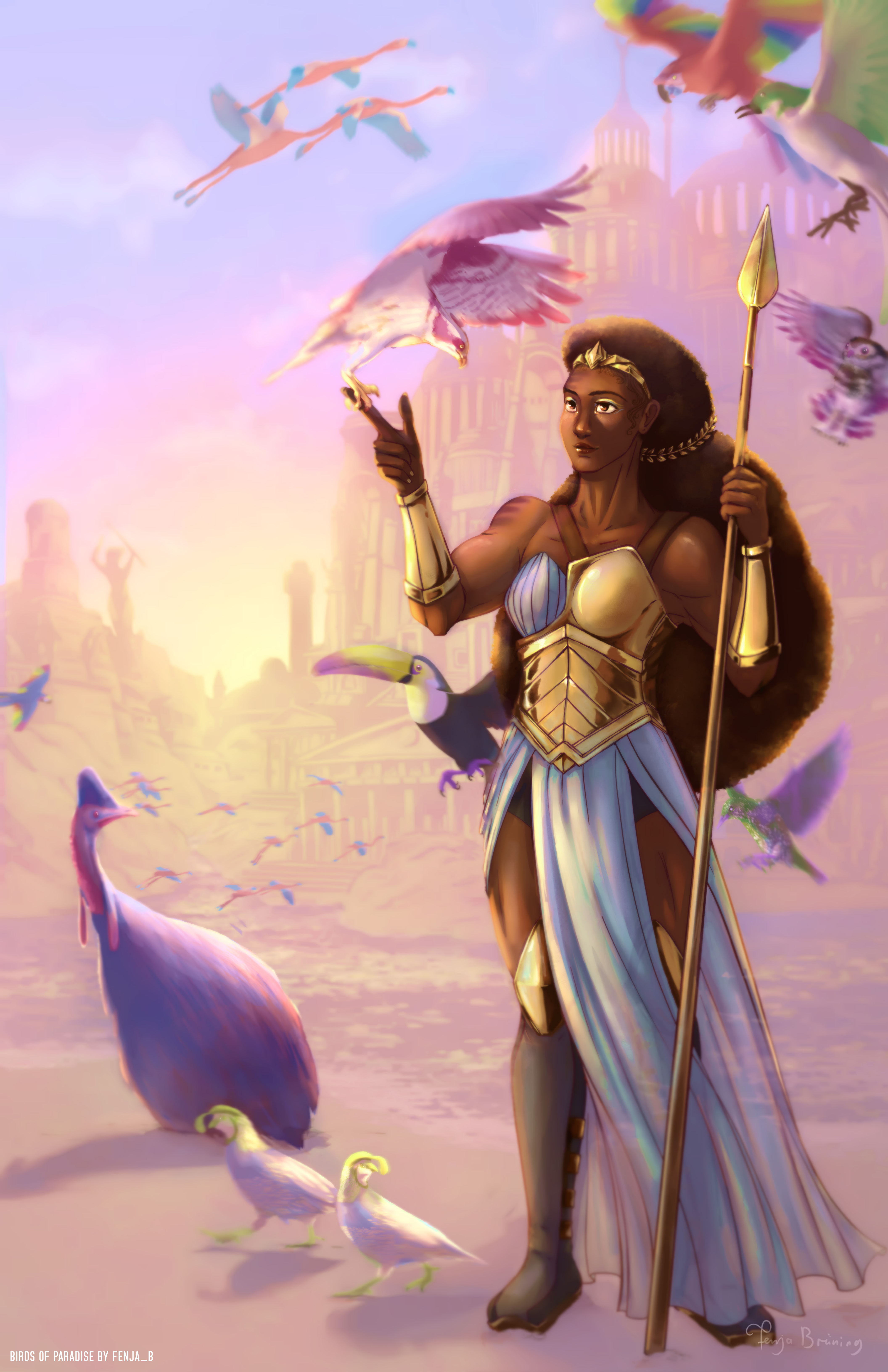

You can become invisible, is that not so, Mr. Khan?
I can be invisible too. When I choose to be.
AVENDER LOUNGE
I do my best work in darkness.
I've been working for a long, long time.
JUSTICE FOR HARVEY
I dare say you're only here now because I was here first.
Most people never see me, you know.
I have worked very hard to ensure that this is so.
Still, the people who need to find me…
. . . always do.
I am a friend to some. Worse to others.
Much like yourself.


IF YOU'RE A FRIEND, WHY'D YOU HIDE OUT FOR THIS LONG, HUH? EVERYTHING'S BEEN-
I showed up, didn't I?
SHOW ME YOUR REAL FACE. I WANT TO SEE YOU.
NO
THIS IS HIS REAL FACE.
I've reinvented myself, you see. I have found where I'm needed, and how I can best look out for the ones I love.
I'm happy.
I admire you greatly, Mr. Terrill.
I know darkness has not been kind to you. You are made of light, after all.
I myself have mastered the darkness cannot control me.
Where I go, only the Shadow remains.
Do you understand?
I DO.


THE SHADOWS HAVE THEIR SHARE OF BENEVOLENT MONSTERS. GOTHAM CITY IS PROOF OF THAT.
THE DARKNESS HAS SEEN ME AT MY WORST
IT'S ALSO SEEN ME AT MY BEST.
BLACK IS A TIDY CANVAS, AND WITHOUT IT, MEN LIKE RAY WOULDN'T SHINE SO BRIGHT.
I DON'T KNOW WHY WE STAY HERE FOR SO LONG.
. . . ACTUALLY, I DO. THE SUN IS COMING UP.
IT DOESN'T SIT RIGHT WITH ME THAT HE KNOWS MY NAME.
HE KNOWS ME, BUT I DON'T KNOW HIM?
DOES IT MATTER?

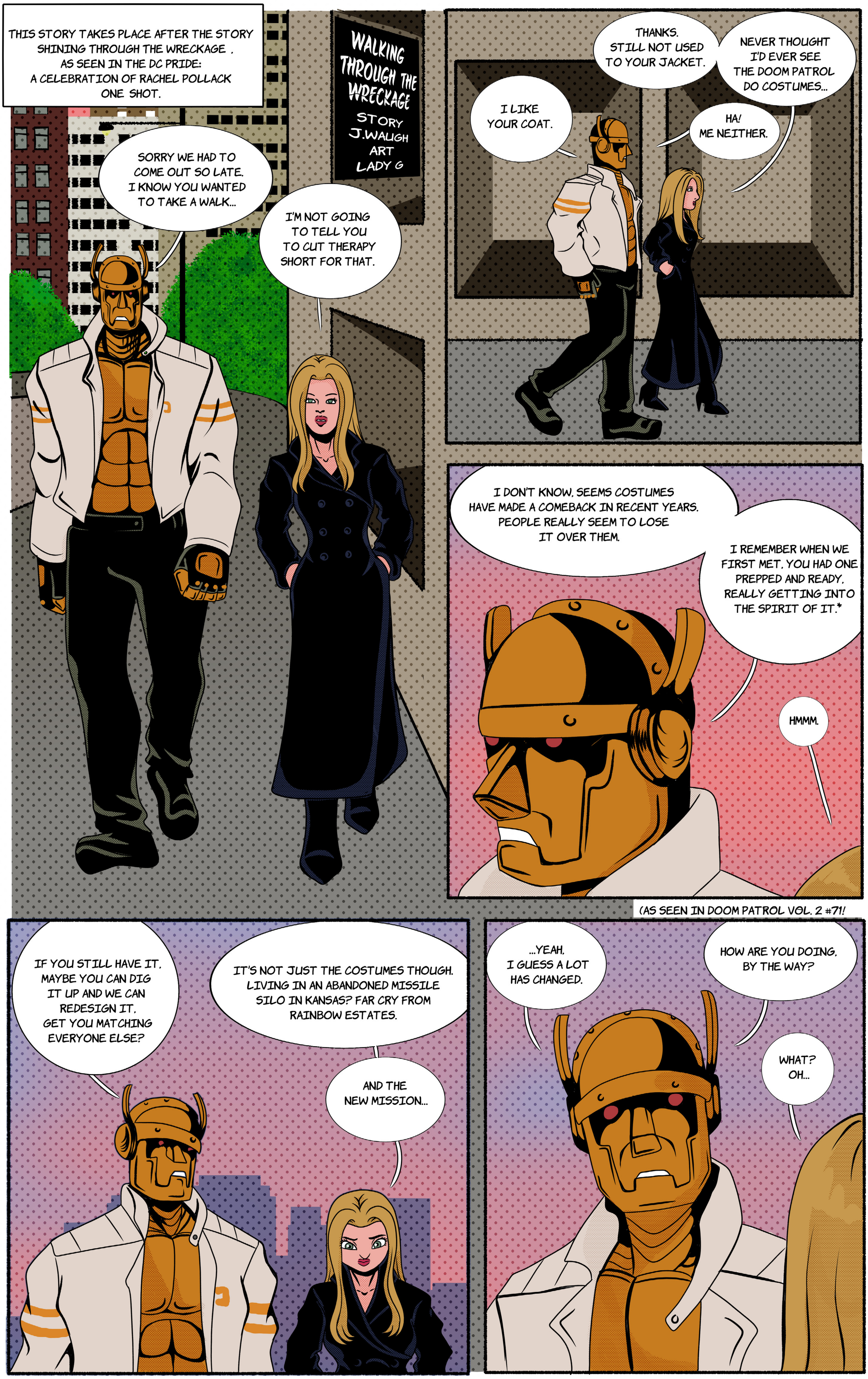
...WHO KNOWS?

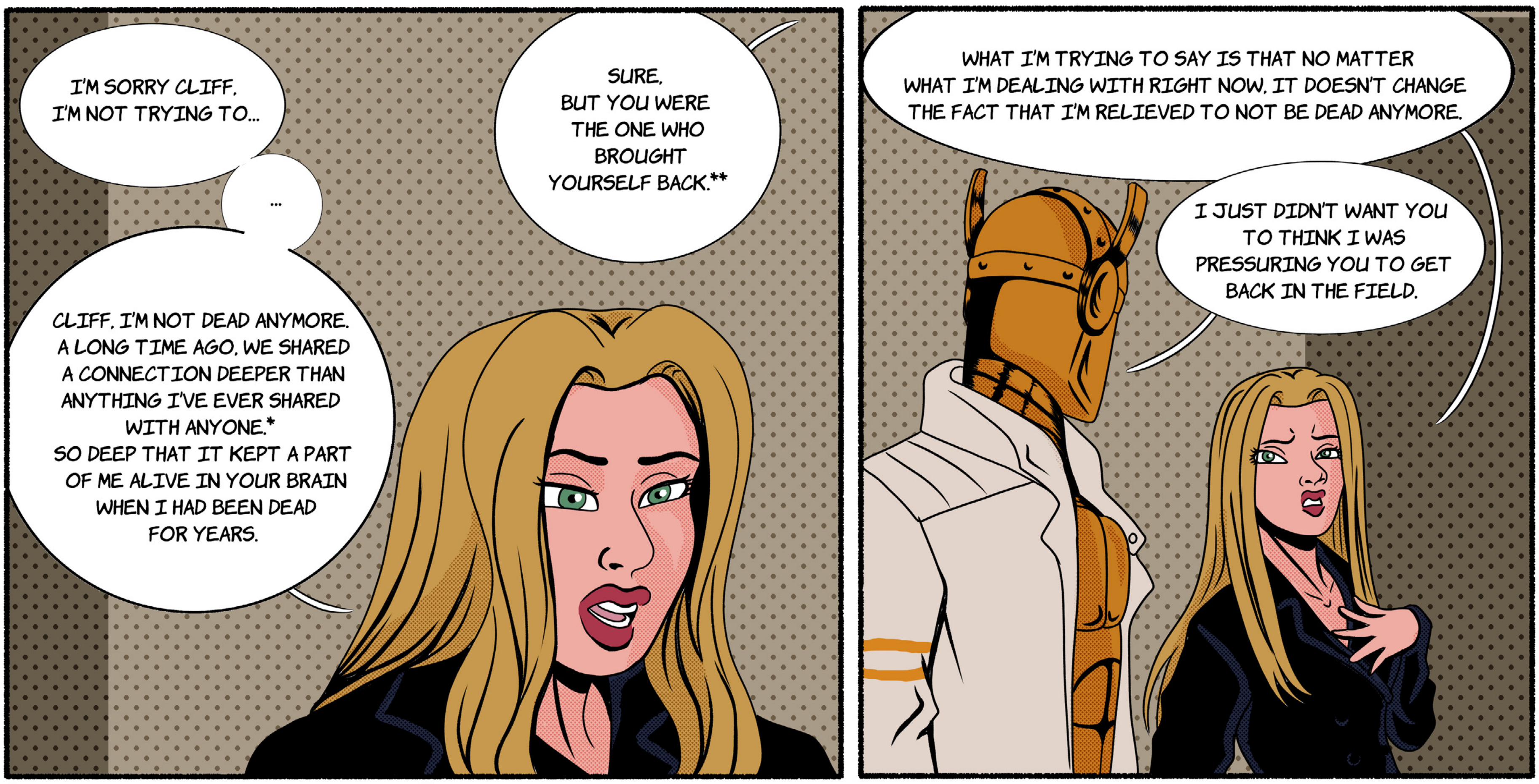
WRITER: Henry J. Barnosky
ARTIST: Lena M. Gantner



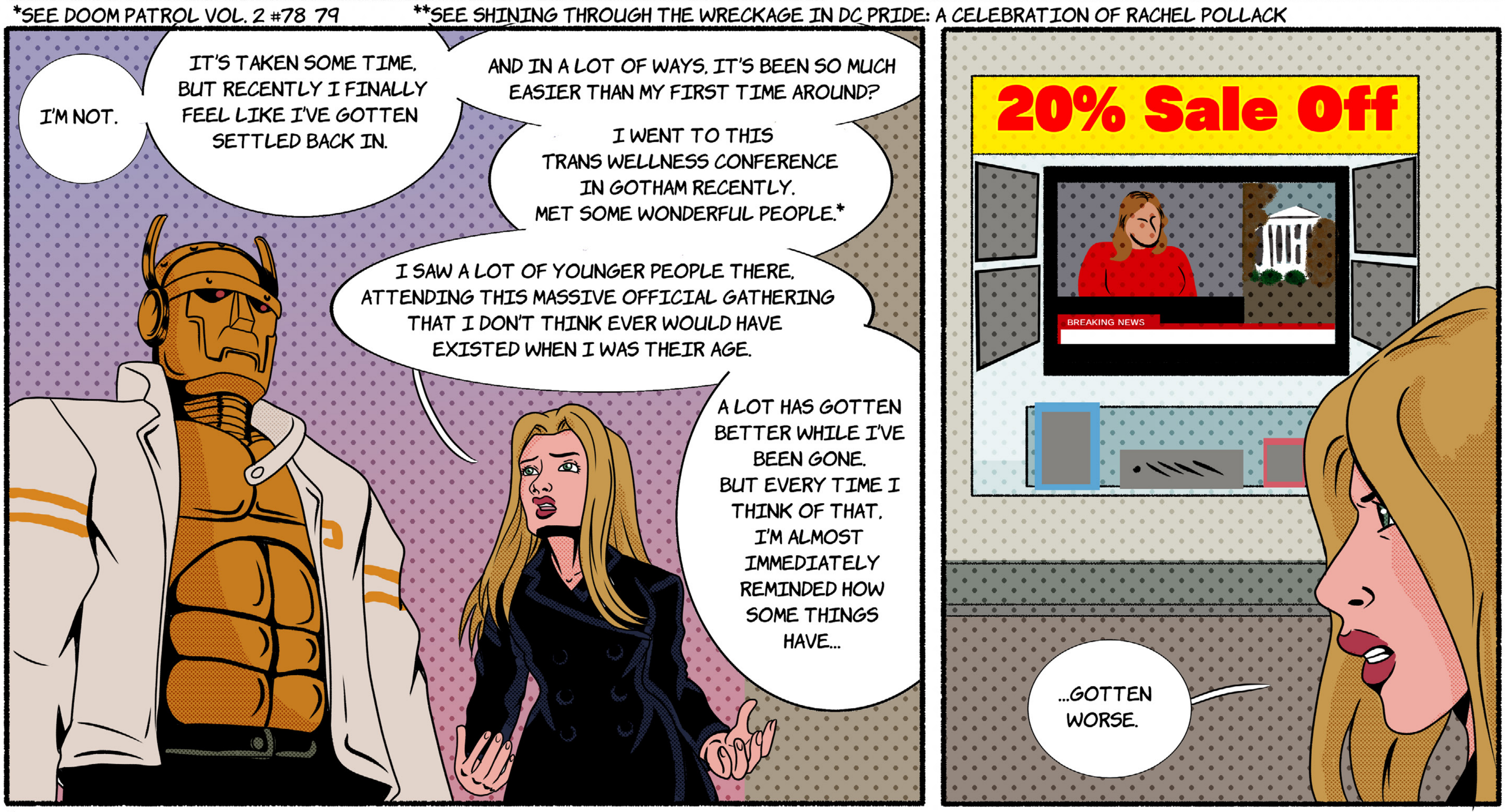
BIRDS OF PARADISE BY FENJA_B

Fenja Brüning

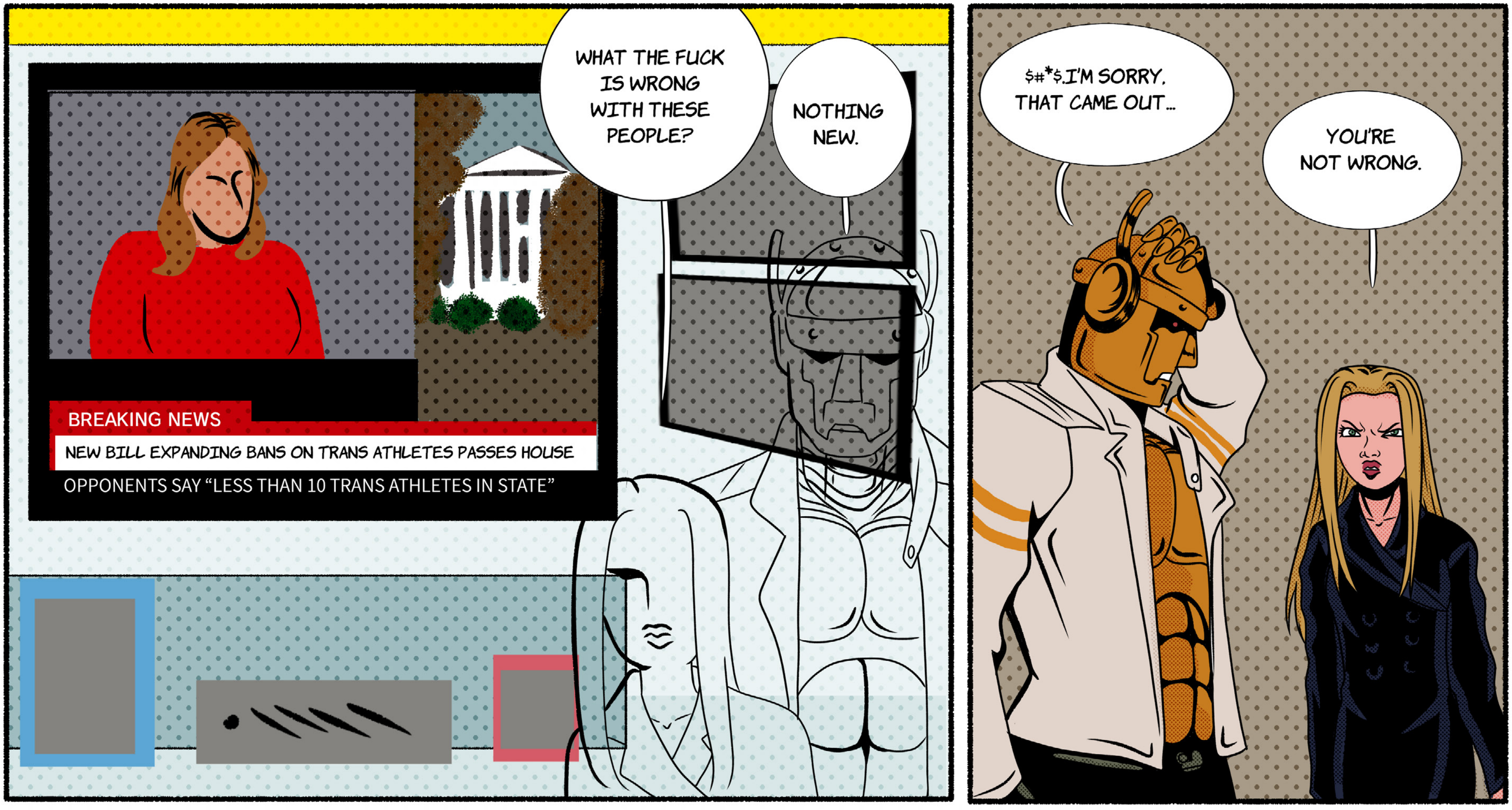

THIS STORY TAKES PLACE AFTER THE STORY SHINING THROUGH THE WRECKAGE , AS SEEN IN THE DC PRIDE: A CELEBRATION OF RACHEL POLLACK ONE SHOT.
WALKING THROUGH THE WRECKAGE
STORY J.WAUGH
ART LADY G
SORRY WE HAD TO COME OUT SO LATE. I KNOW YOU WANTED TO TAKE A WALK...
I'M NOT GOING TO TELL YOU TO CUT THERAPY SHORT FOR THAT.
I LIKE YOUR COAT.
THANKS. STILL NOT USED TO YOUR JACKET.
NEVER THOUGHT I'D EVER SEE THE DOOM PATROL DO COSTUMES...
HA! ME NEITHER.
I DON'T KNOW. SEEMS COSTUMES HAVE MADE A COMEBACK IN RECENT YEARS. PEOPLE REALLY SEEM TO LOSE IT OVER THEM.
I REMEMBER WHEN WE FIRST MET, YOU HAD ONE PREPPED AND READY. REALLY GETTING INTO THE SPIRIT OF IT.*
HMMM.
(AS SEEN IN DOOM PATROL VOL. 2 #71!
IF YOU STILL HAVE IT, MAYBE YOU CAN DIG IT UP AND WE CAN REDESIGN IT. GET YOU MATCHING EVERYONE ELSE?
IT'S NOT JUST THE COSTUMES THOUGH. LIVING IN AN ABANDONED MISSILE SILO IN KANSAS? FAR CRY FROM RAINBOW ESTATES.
AND THE NEW MISSION...
...YEAH. I GUESS A LOT HAS CHANGED.
HOW ARE YOU DOING, BY THE WAY?
WHAT? OH...

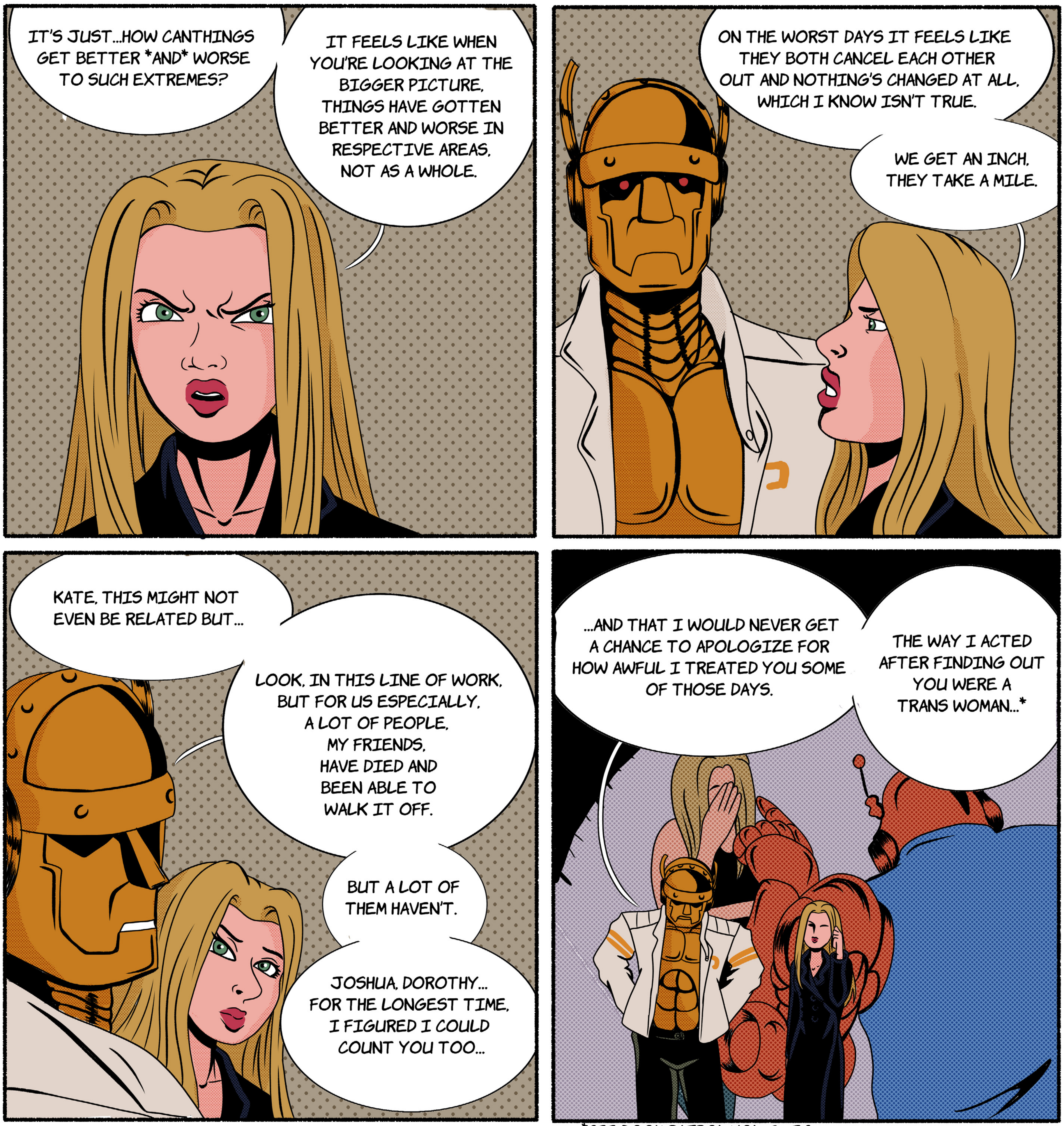

I'M SORRY CLIFF. I'M NOT TRYING TO...
...
SURE. BUT YOU WERE THE ONE WHO BROUGHT YOURSELF BACK.**
CLIFF, I'M NOT DEAD ANYMORE. A LONG TIME AGO, WE SHARED A CONNECTION DEEPER THAN ANYTHING I'VE EVER SHARED WITH ANYONE.* SO DEEP THAT IT KEPT A PART OF ME ALIVE IN YOUR BRAIN WHEN I HAD BEEN DEAD FOR YEARS.
WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS THAT NO MATTER WHAT I'M DEALING WITH RIGHT NOW, IT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT I'M RELIEVED TO NOT BE DEAD ANYMORE.
I JUST DIDN'T WANT YOU TO THINK I WAS PRESSURING YOU TO GET BACK IN THE FIELD.

*SEE DOOM PATROL VOL. 2 #78 79 **SEE SHINING THROUGH THE WRECKAGE IN DC PRIDE: A CELEBRATION OF RACHEL POLLACK

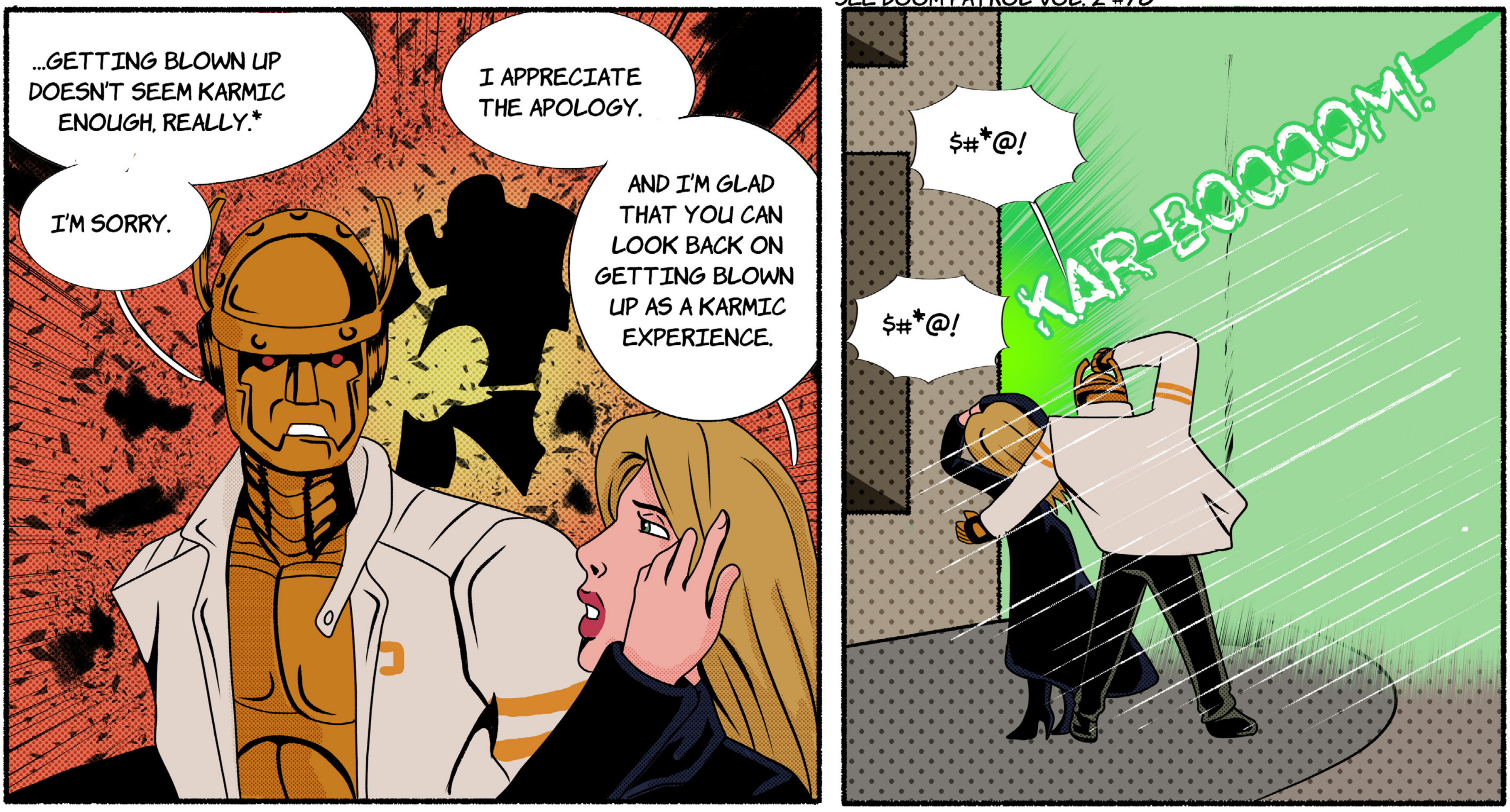

I'M NOT.
IT'S TAKEN SOME TIME, BUT RECENTLY I FINALLY FEEL LIKE I'VE GOTTEN SETTLED BACK IN.
AND IN A LOT OF WAYS, IT'S BEEN SO MUCH EASIER THAN MY FIRST TIME AROUND?
I WENT TO THIS TRANS WELLNESS CONFERENCE IN GOTHAM RECENTLY. MET SOME WONDERFUL PEOPLE.*
I SAW A LOT OF YOUNGER PEOPLE THERE, ATTENDING THIS MASSIVE OFFICIAL GATHERING THAT I DON'T THINK EVER WOULD HAVE EXISTED WHEN I WAS THEIR AGE.
A LOT HAS GOTTEN BETTER WHILE I'VE BEEN GONE. BUT EVERY TIME I THINK OF THAT, I'M ALMOST IMMEDIATELY REMINDED HOW SOME THINGS HAVE...
20% Sale Off
BREAKING NEWS
...GOTTEN WORSE.

*SHE'S TALKING ABOUT, AMONG OTHERS, ALYSIA YEOH! SEE THE STORY UP AT BAT FROM DC PRIDE 2022!

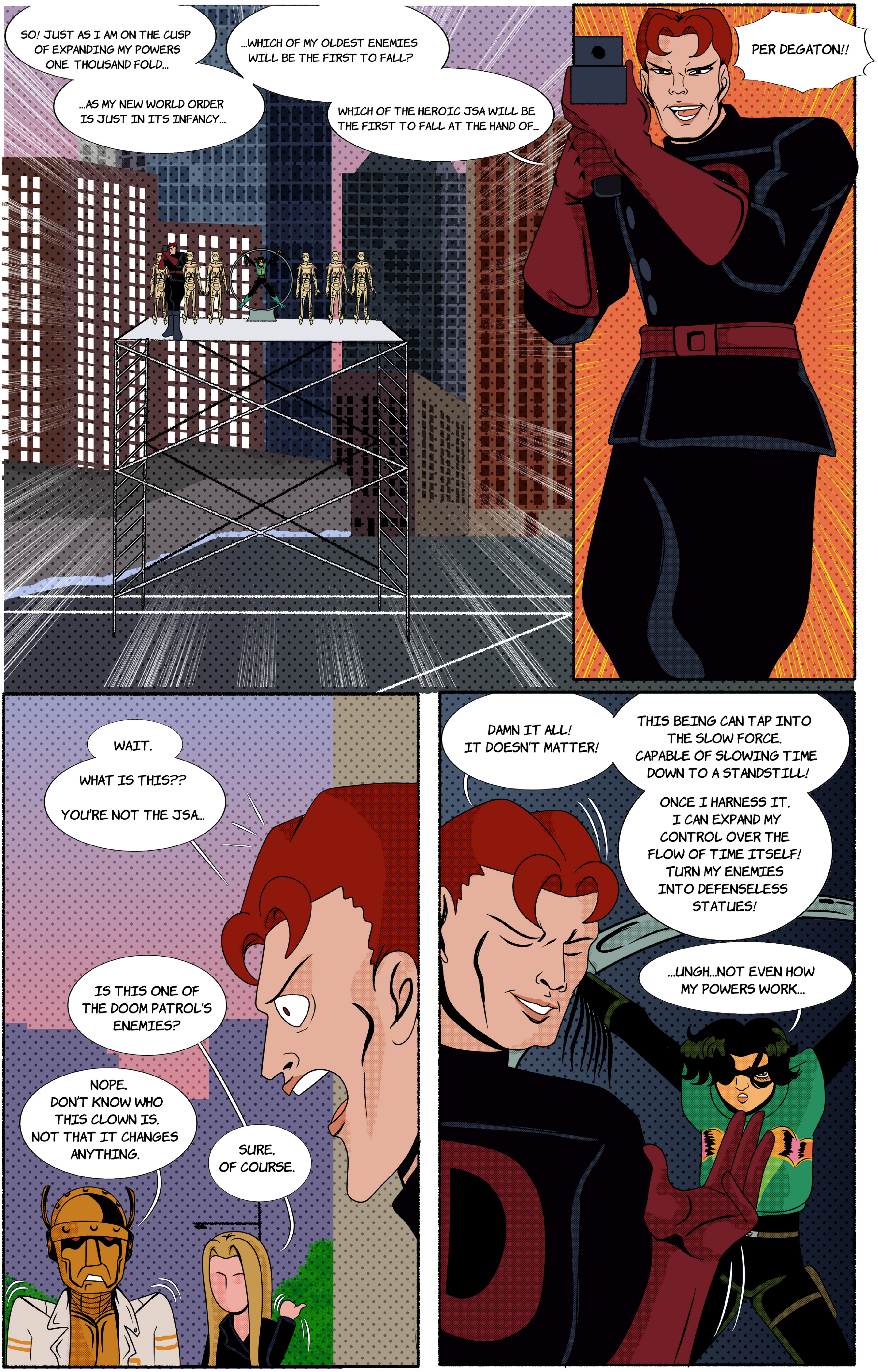

BREAKING NEWS
NEW BILL EXPANDING BANS ON TRANS ATHLETES PASSES HOUSE
OPPONENTS SAY "LESS THAN 10 TRANS ATHLETES IN STATE"
WHAT THE FUCK IS WRONG WITH THESE PEOPLE?
NOTHING NEW.
$#*$. I'M SORRY. THAT CAME OUT...
YOU'RE NOT WRONG.

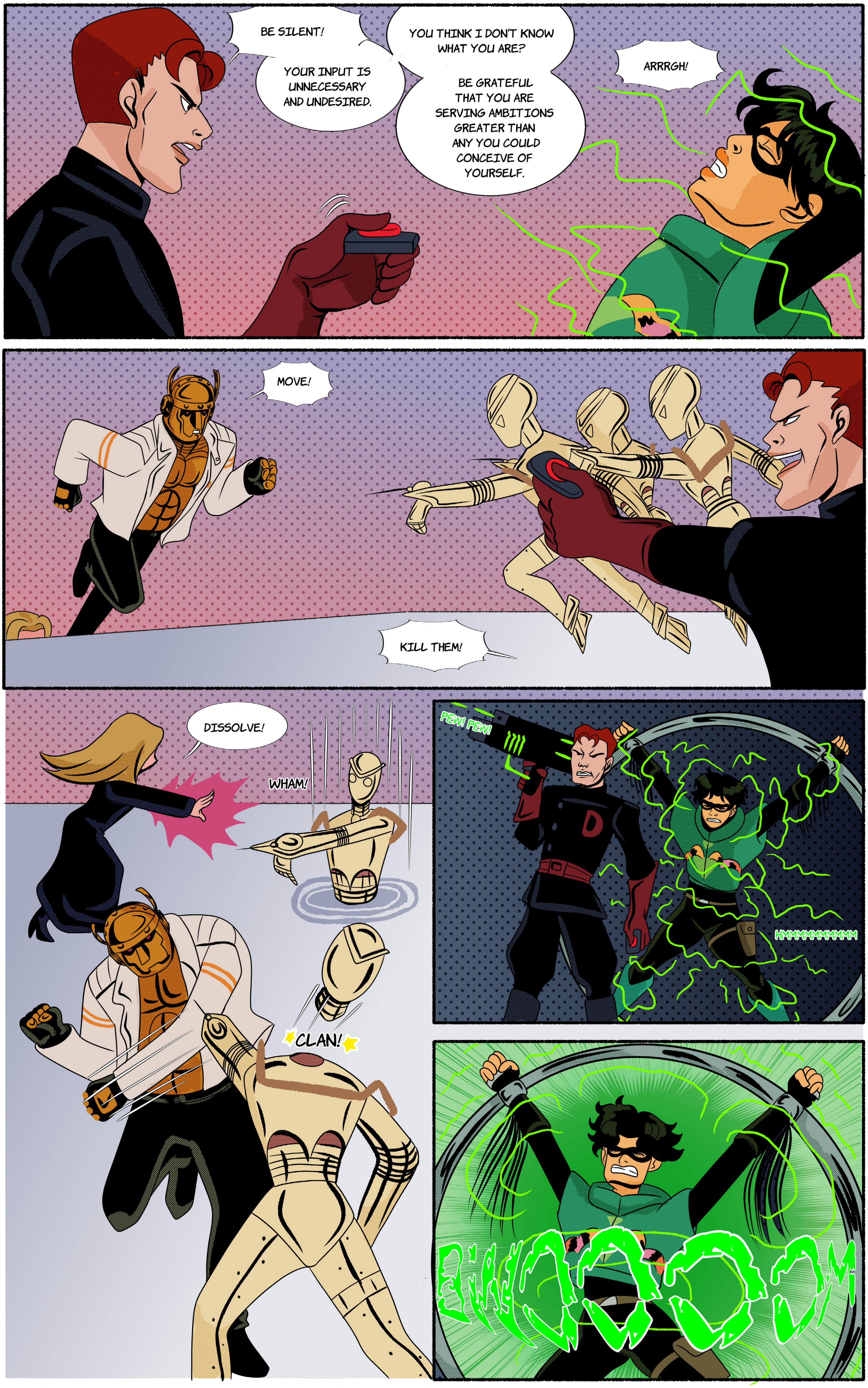

IT'S JUST...HOW CANTHINGS GET BETTER *AND* WORSE TO SUCH EXTREMES?
IT FEELS LIKE WHEN YOU'RE LOOKING AT THE BIGGER PICTURE, THINGS HAVE GOTTEN BETTER AND WORSE IN RESPECTIVE AREAS, NOT AS A WHOLE.
ON THE WORST DAYS IT FEELS LIKE THEY BOTH CANCEL EACH OTHER OUT AND NOTHING'S CHANGED AT ALL, WHICH I KNOW ISN'T TRUE.
WE GET AN INCH, THEY TAKE A MILE.
KATE, THIS MIGHT NOT EVEN BE RELATED BUT...
LOOK, IN THIS LINE OF WORK, BUT FOR US ESPECIALLY, A LOT OF PEOPLE, MY FRIENDS, HAVE DIED AND BEEN ABLE TO WALK IT OFF.
BUT A LOT OF THEM HAVEN'T.
JOSHUA, DOROTHY... FOR THE LONGEST TIME, I FIGURED I COULD COUNT YOU TOO...
...AND THAT I WOULD NEVER GET A CHANCE TO APOLOGIZE FOR HOW AWFUL I TREATED YOU SOME OF THOSE DAYS.
THE WAY I ACTED AFTER FINDING OUT YOU WERE A TRANS WOMAN...*

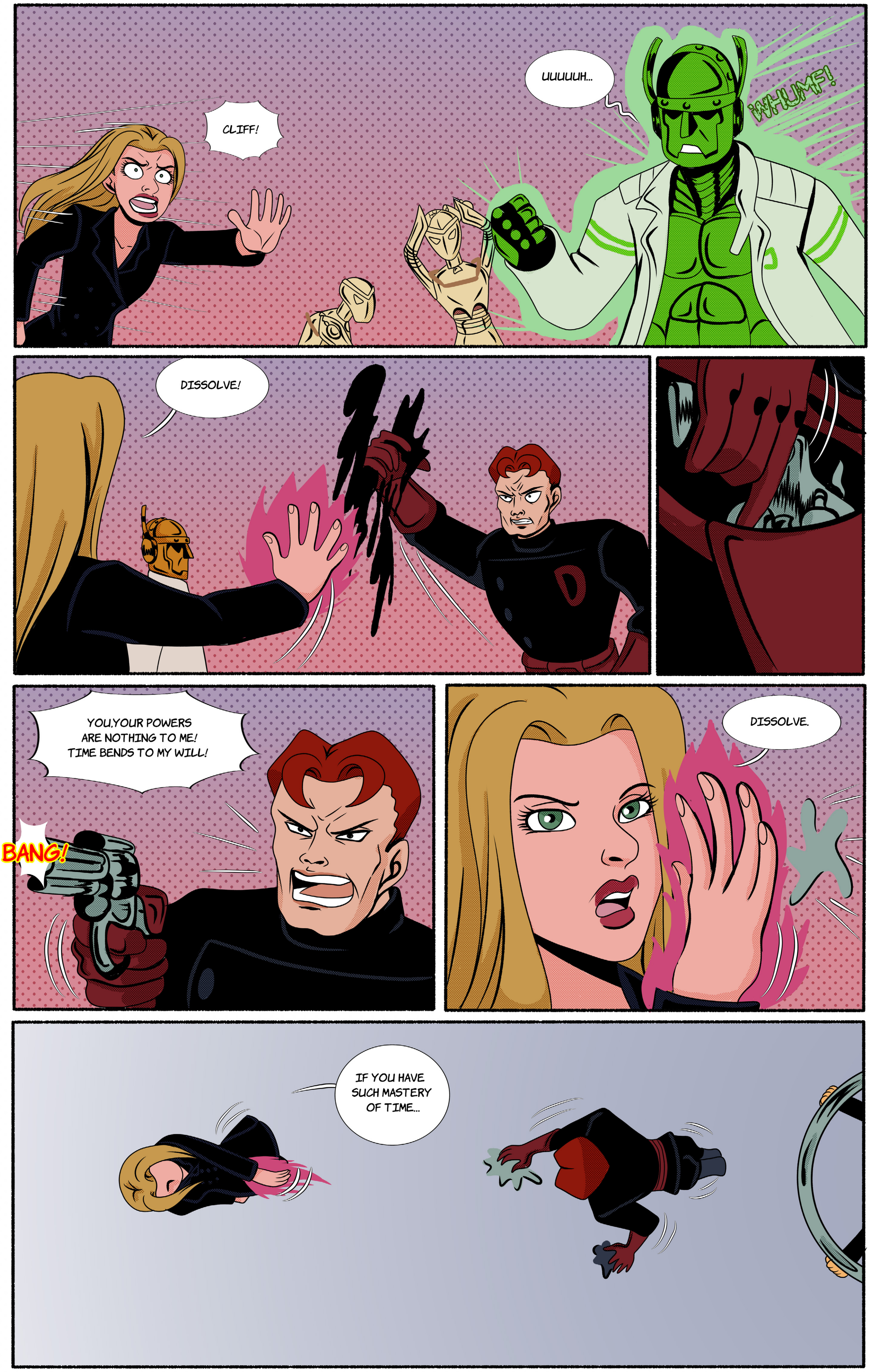
*SEE DOOM PATROL VOL. 2 #76

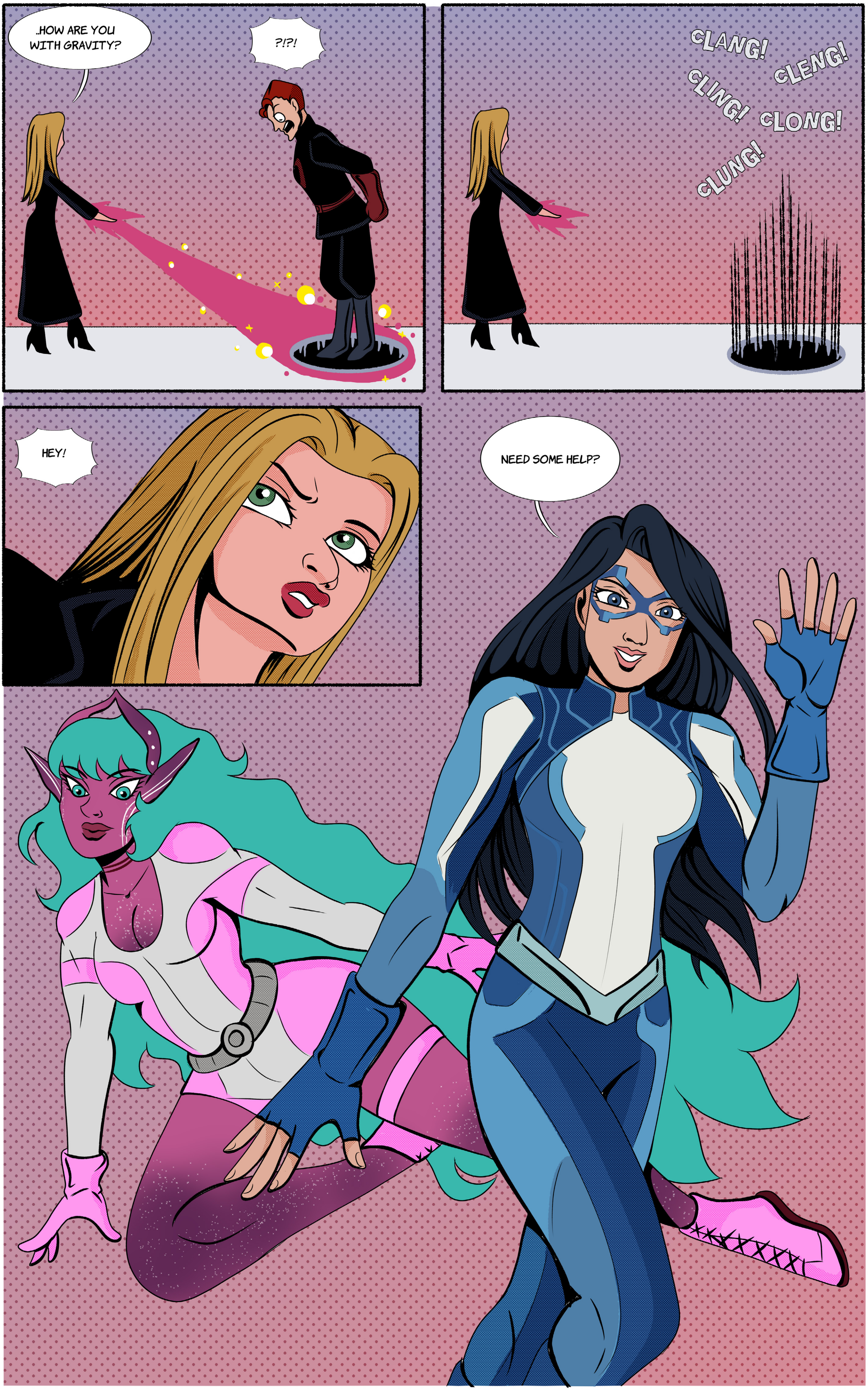

...GETTING BLOWN UP DOESN'T SEEM KARMIC ENOUGH, REALLY.*
I'M SORRY.
I APPRECIATE THE APOLOGY.
AND I'M GLAD THAT YOU CAN LOOK BACK ON GETTING BLOWN UP AS A KARMIC EXPERIENCE.
$#*@!
$#*@!
KAR-BOOOOM!

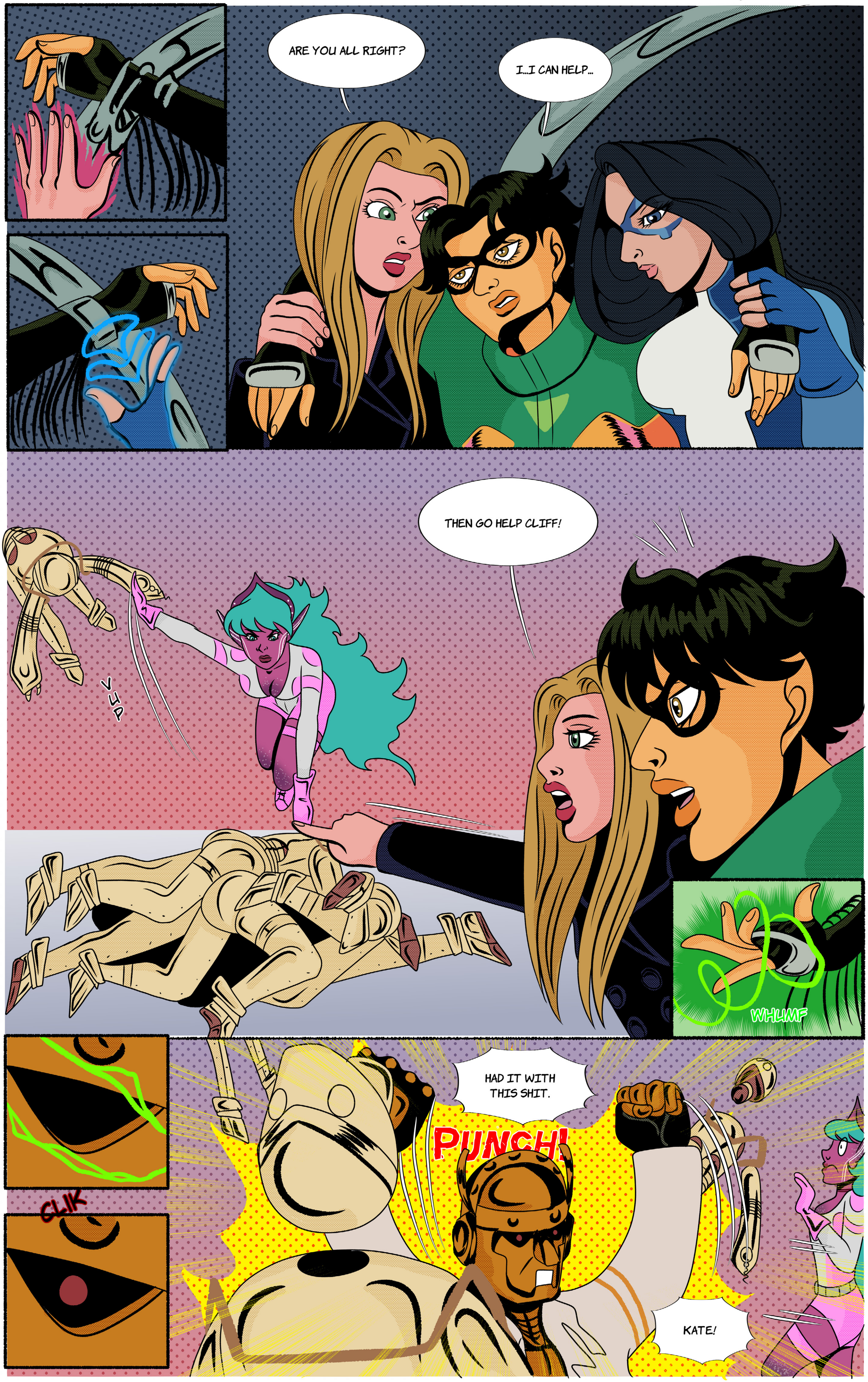
*ALSO IN DOOM PATROL VOL. 2 #76. RIGHT AT THE END!

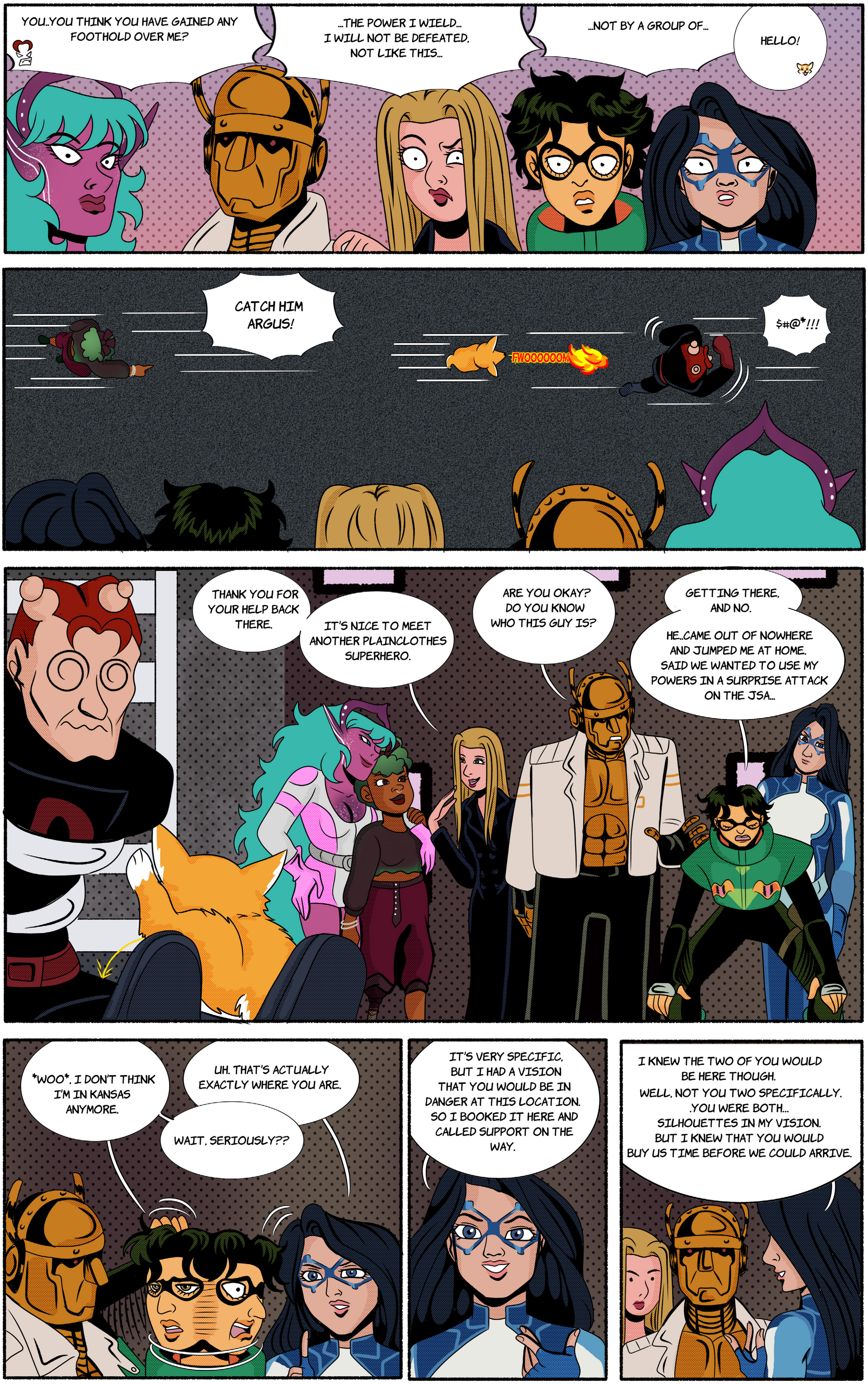

SO! JUST AS I AM ON THE CUSP OF EXPANDING MY POWERS ONE THOUSAND FOLD...
...AS MY NEW WORLD ORDER IS JUST IN ITS INFANCY...
...WHICH OF MY OLDEST ENEMIES WILL BE THE FIRST TO FALL?
WHICH OF THE HEROIC JSA WILL BE THE FIRST TO FALL AT THE HAND OF...
PER DEGATON!!
WAIT.
WHAT IS THIS??
YOU'RE NOT THE JSA...
IS THIS ONE OF THE DOOM PATROL'S ENEMIES?
NOPE. DON'T KNOW WHO THIS CLOWN IS. NOT THAT IT CHANGES ANYTHING.
SURE. OF COURSE.
DAMN IT ALL! IT DOESN'T MATTER!
THIS BEING CAN TAP INTO THE SLOW FORCE. CAPABLE OF SLOWING TIME DOWN TO A STANDSTILL!
ONCE I HARNESS IT, I CAN EXPAND MY CONTROL OVER THE FLOW OF TIME ITSELF! TURN MY ENEMIES INTO DEFENSELESS STATUES!
...UNGH...NOT EVEN HOW MY POWERS WORK...

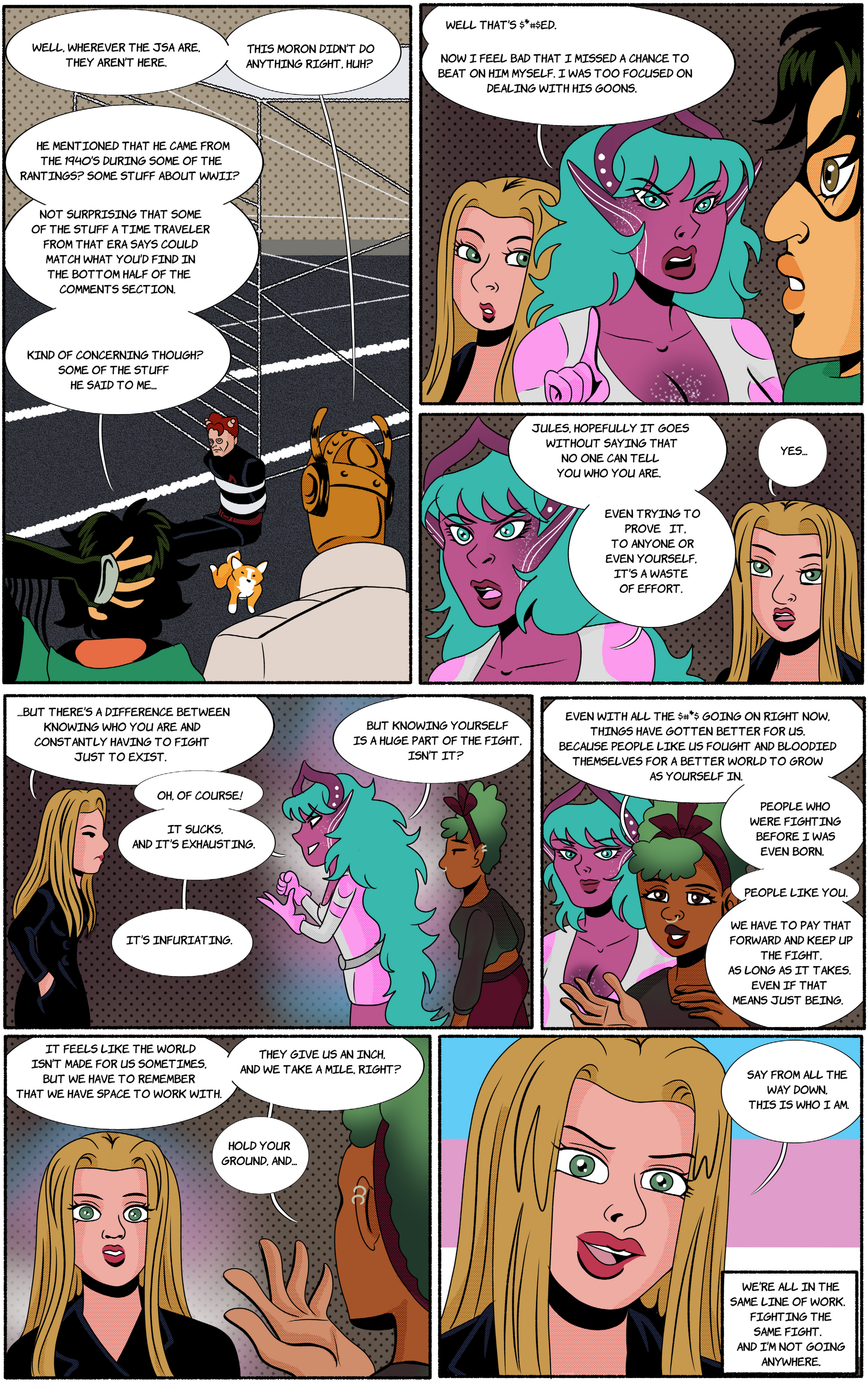

BE SILENT!
YOUR INPUT IS UNNECESSARY AND UNDESIRED.
YOU THINK I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU ARE?
BE GRATEFUL THAT YOU ARE SERVING AMBITIONS GREATER THAN ANY YOU COULD CONCEIVE OF YOURSELF.
ARRRGH!
MOVE!
KILL THEM!
DISSOLVE!
WHAM!
CLAN!
PEW! PEW!
HMMMMMMMMMM
BWOOOOM

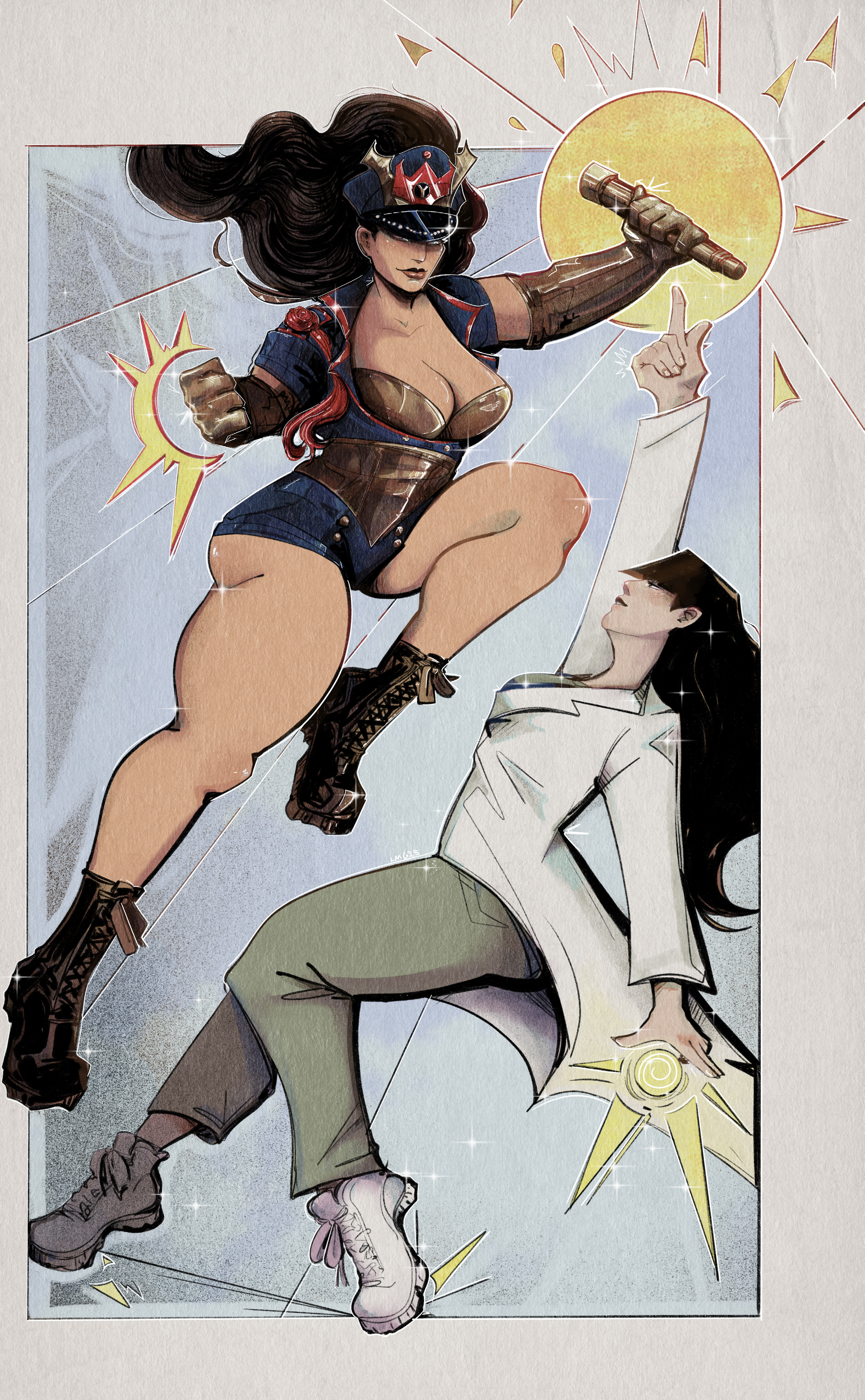

CLIFF!
UUUUUH...
WHUMF!
DISSOLVE!
YOU,YOUR POWERS ARE NOTHING TO ME! TIME BENDS TO MY WILL!
BANG!
DISSOLVE.
IF YOU HAVE SUCH MASTERY OF TIME...


..HOW ARE YOU WITH GRAVITY?
?!?!
CLANG!
CLENG!
CLING!
CLONG!
CLUNG!
HEY!
NEED SOME HELP?

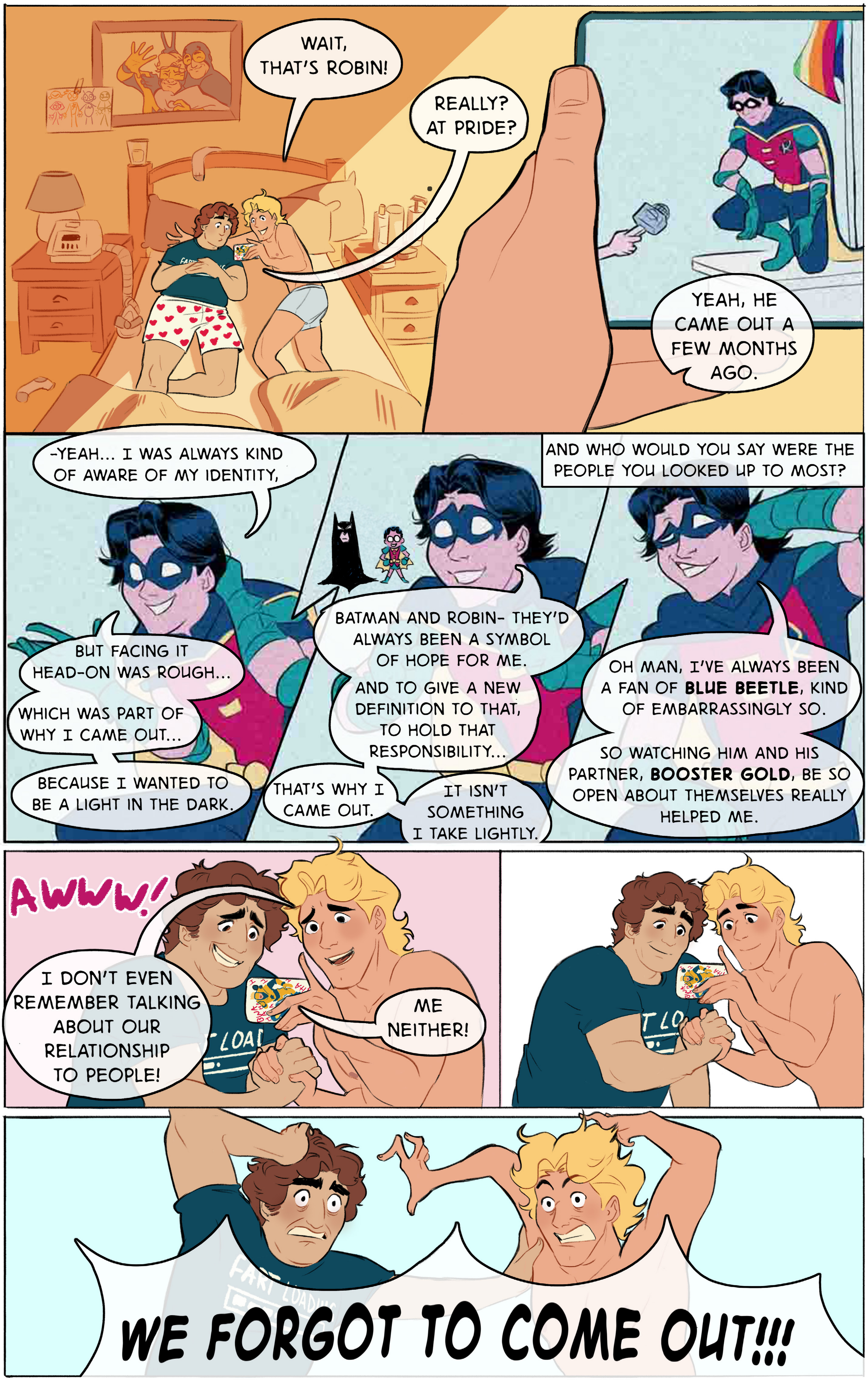

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I...I CAN HELP...
THEN GO HELP CLIFF!
VUP
WHUMF
CLIK
HAD IT WITH THIS SHIT.
PUNCH!
KATE!

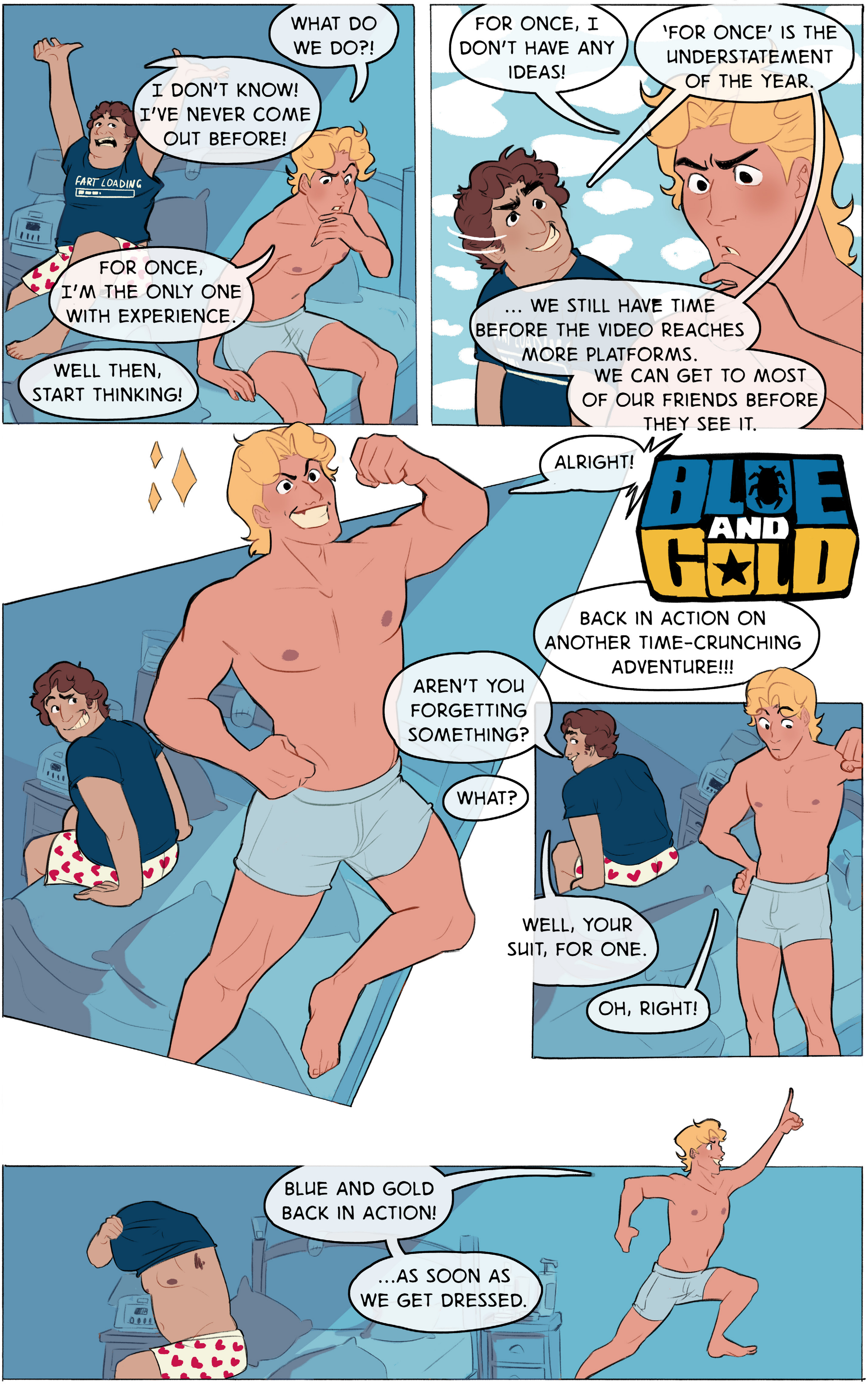

YOU..YOU THINK YOU HAVE GAINED ANY FOOTHOLD OVER ME?
...THE POWER I WIELD... I WILL NOT BE DEFEATED. NOT LIKE THIS...
...NOT BY A GROUP OF...
HELLO!
CATCH HIM ARGUS!
FWOOOOOOM
$#@*!!!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP BACK THERE.
IT'S NICE TO MEET ANOTHER PLAINCLOTHES SUPERHERO.
ARE YOU OKAY? DO YOU KNOW WHO THIS GUY IS?
GETTING THERE. AND NO.
HE..CAME OUT OF NOWHERE AND JUMPED ME AT HOME. SAID WE WANTED TO USE MY POWERS IN A SURPRISE ATTACK ON THE JSA...
WOO. I DON'T THINK I'M IN KANSAS ANYMORE.
UH. THAT'S ACTUALLY EXACTLY WHERE YOU ARE.
WAIT. SERIOUSLY??
IT'S VERY SPECIFIC, BUT I HAD A VISION THAT YOU WOULD BE IN DANGER AT THIS LOCATION. SO I BOOKED IT HERE AND CALLED SUPPORT ON THE WAY.
I KNEW THE TWO OF YOU WOULD BE HERE THOUGH. WELL, NOT YOU TWO SPECIFICALLY. YOU WERE BOTH... SILHOUETTES IN MY VISION. BUT I KNEW THAT YOU WOULD BUY US TIME BEFORE WE COULD ARRIVE.

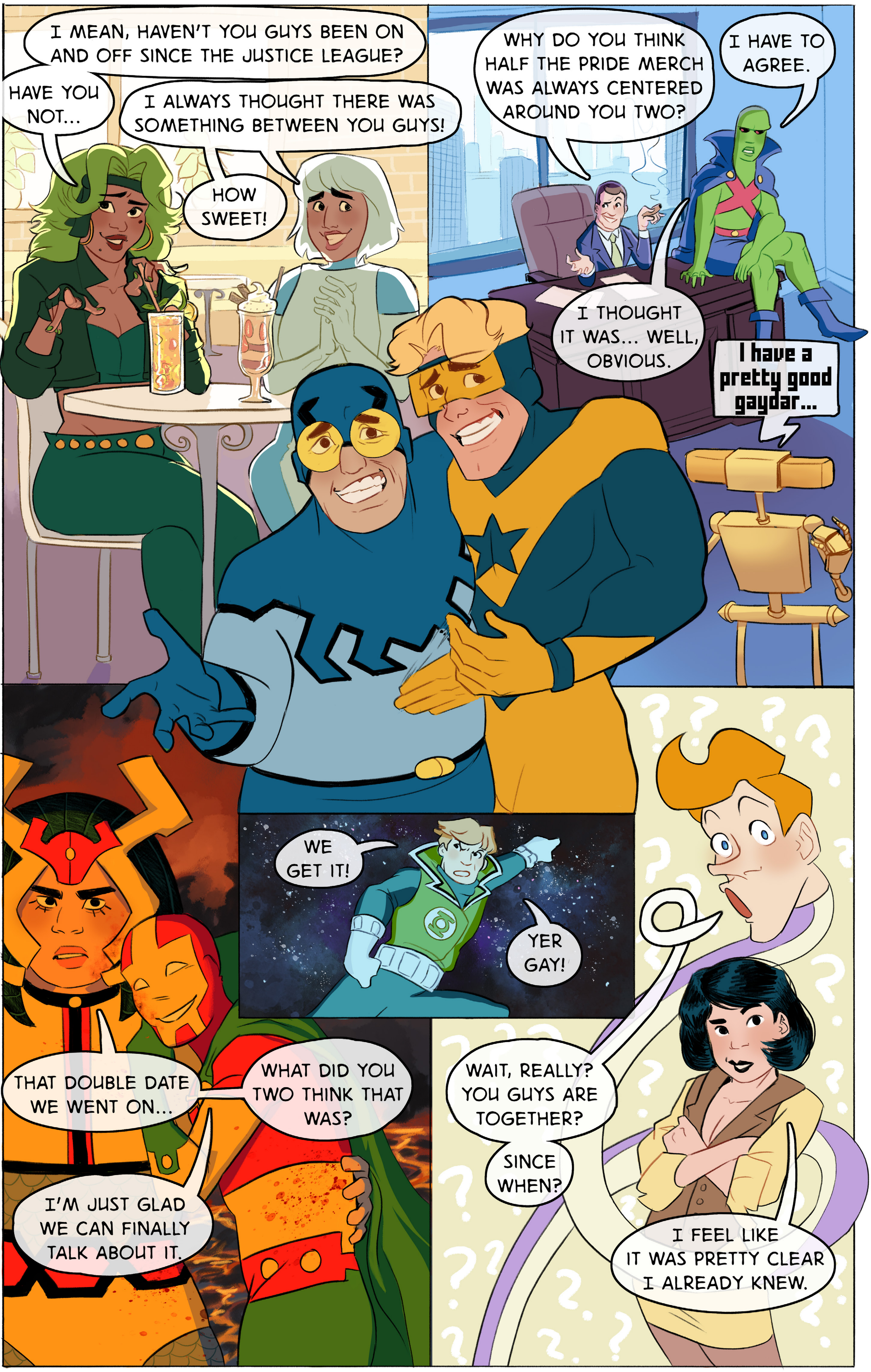

WELL, WHEREVER THE JSA ARE, THEY AREN'T HERE.
THIS MORON DIDN'T DO ANYTHING RIGHT, HUH?
HE MENTIONED THAT HE CAME FROM THE 1940'S DURING SOME OF THE RANTINGS? SOME STUFF ABOUT WWII?
NOT SURPRISING THAT SOME OF THE STUFF A TIME TRAVELER FROM THAT ERA SAYS COULD MATCH WHAT YOU'D FIND IN THE BOTTOM HALF OF THE COMMENTS SECTION.
KIND OF CONCERNING THOUGH? SOME OF THE STUFF HE SAID TO ME...
WELL THAT'S $*#$ED.
NOW I FEEL BAD THAT I MISSED A CHANCE TO BEAT ON HIM MYSELF. I WAS TOO FOCUSED ON DEALING WITH HIS GOONS.
JULES, HOPEFULLY IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT NO ONE CAN TELL YOU WHO YOU ARE.
YES...
EVEN TRYING TO PROVE IT, TO ANYONE OR EVEN YOURSELF, IT'S A WASTE OF EFFORT.
...BUT THERE'S A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN KNOWING WHO YOU ARE AND CONSTANTLY HAVING TO FIGHT JUST TO EXIST.
BUT KNOWING YOURSELF IS A HUGE PART OF THE FIGHT, ISN'T IT?
OH, OF COURSE!
IT SUCKS, AND IT'S EXHAUSTING.
IT'S INFURIATING.
EVEN WITH ALL THE $#*$ GOING ON RIGHT NOW, THINGS HAVE GOTTEN BETTER FOR US. BECAUSE PEOPLE LIKE US FOUGHT AND BLOODIED THEMSELVES FOR A BETTER WORLD TO GROW AS YOURSELF IN.
PEOPLE WHO WERE FIGHTING BEFORE I WAS EVEN BORN.
PEOPLE LIKE YOU.
WE HAVE TO PAY THAT FORWARD AND KEEP UP THE FIGHT, AS LONG AS IT TAKES. EVEN IF THAT MEANS JUST BEING.
IT FEELS LIKE THE WORLD ISN'T MADE FOR US SOMETIMES, BUT WE HAVE TO REMEMBER THAT WE HAVE SPACE TO WORK WITH.
THEY GIVE US AN INCH, AND WE TAKE A MILE, RIGHT?
HOLD YOUR GROUND, AND...
SAY FROM ALL THE WAY DOWN, THIS IS WHO I AM.
WE'RE ALL IN THE SAME LINE OF WORK. FIGHTING THE SAME FIGHT. AND I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE.

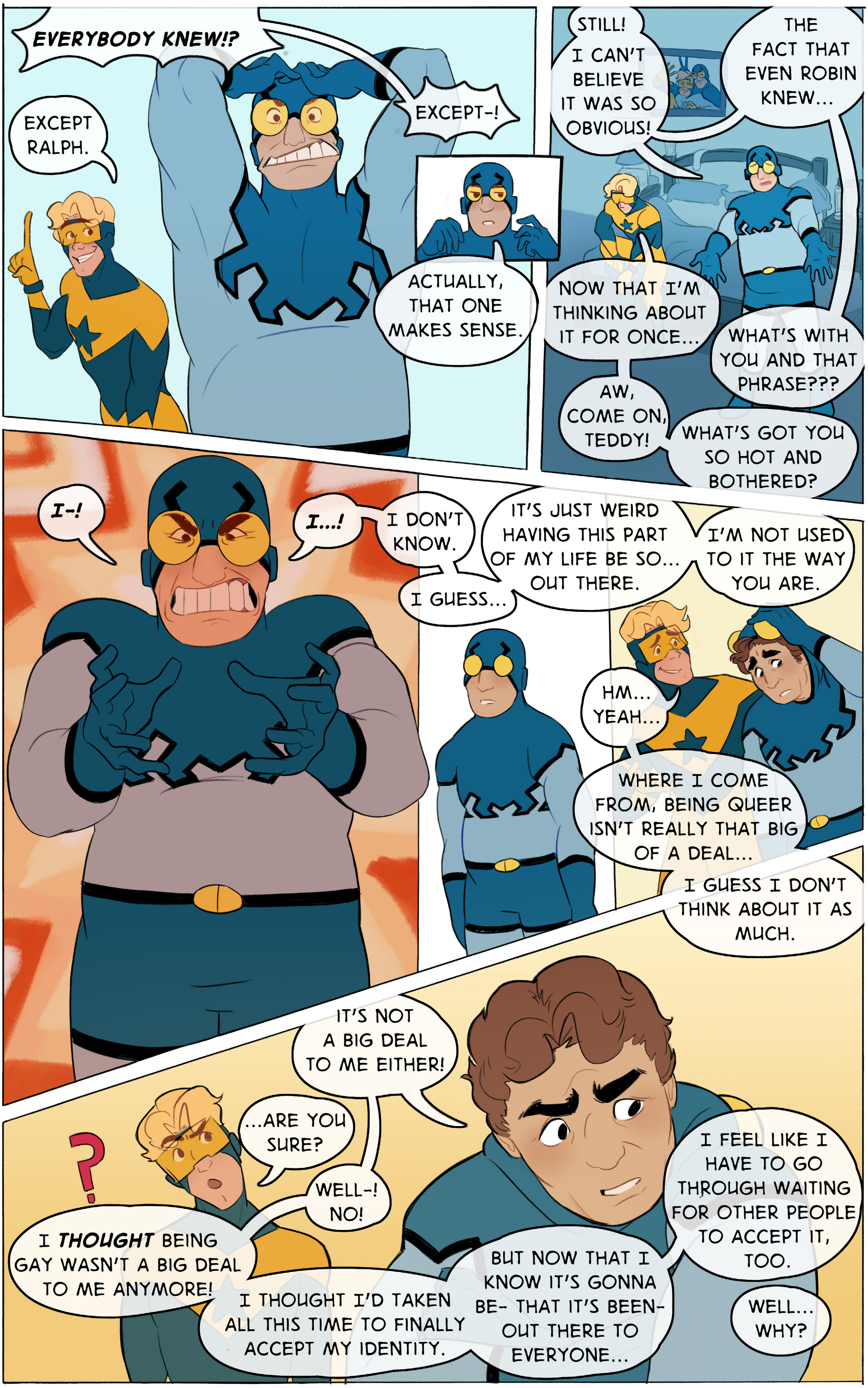


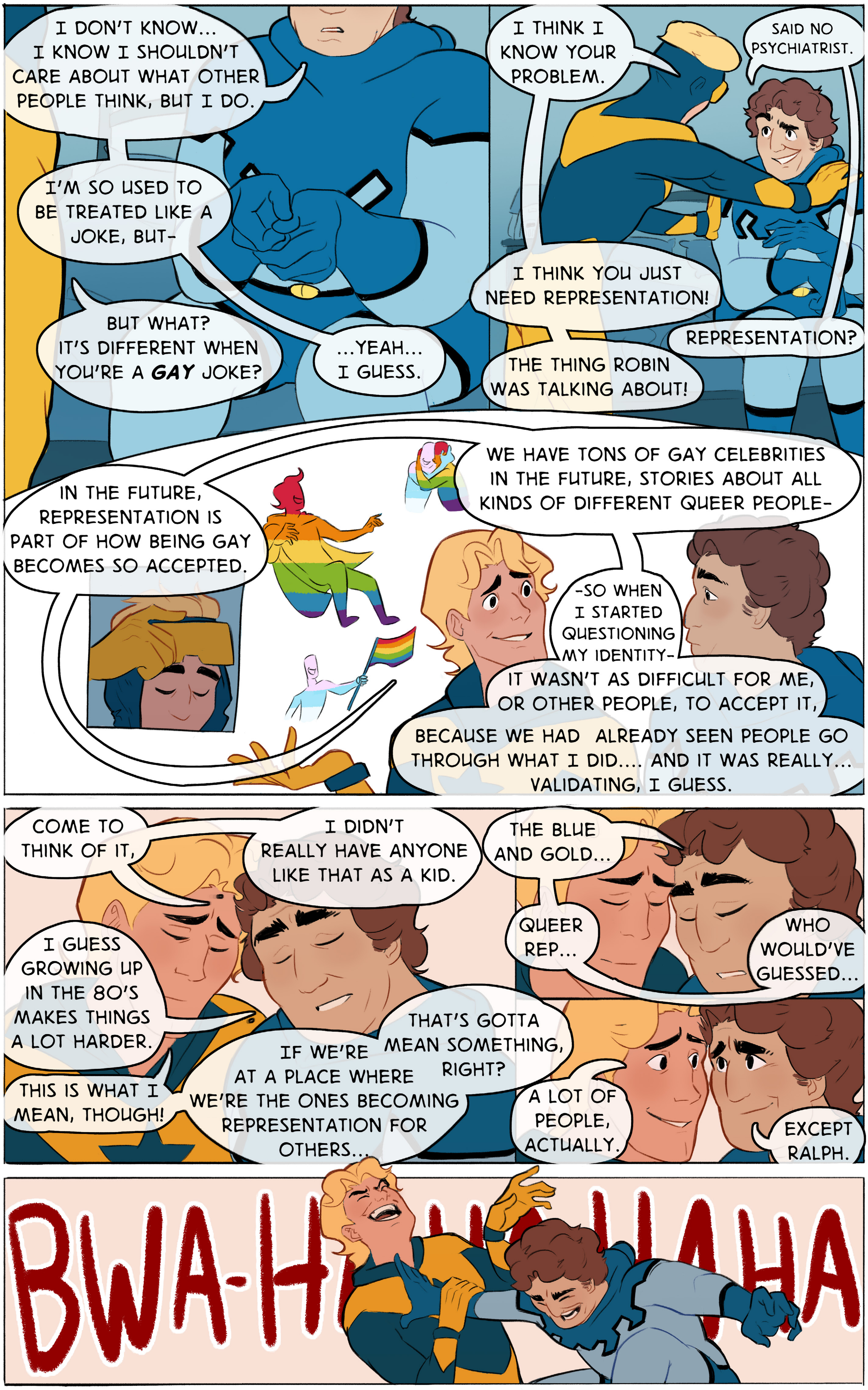
BOMBSHELLS BY RAVEN/LENA

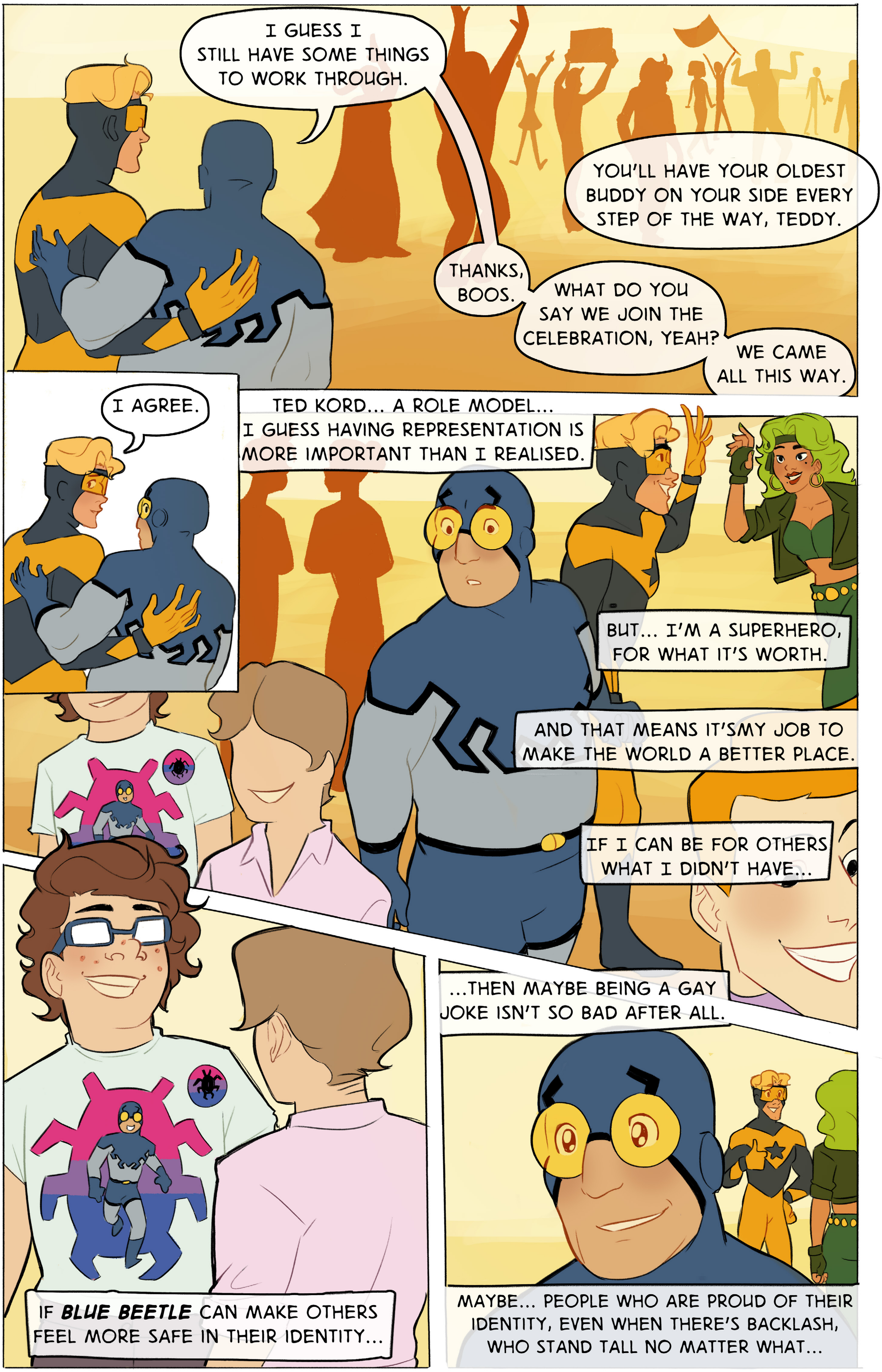

WAIT, THAT'S ROBIN!
REALLY? AT PRIDE?
YEAH, HE CAME OUT A FEW MONTHS AGO.
-YEAH... I WAS ALWAYS KIND OF AWARE OF MY IDENTITY,
BUT FACING IT HEAD-ON WAS ROUGH...
WHICH WAS PART OF WHY I CAME OUT...
BECAUSE I WANTED TO BE A LIGHT IN THE DARK.
BATMAN AND ROBIN- THEY'D ALWAYS BEEN A SYMBOL OF HOPE FOR ME.
AND TO GIVE A NEW DEFINITION TO THAT, TO HOLD THAT RESPONSIBILITY...
THAT'S WHY I CAME OUT.
IT ISN'T SOMETHING I TAKE LIGHTLY.
AND WHO WOULD YOU SAY WERE THE PEOPLE YOU LOOKED UP TO MOST?
OH MAN, I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A FAN OF **BLUE BEETLE**, KIND OF EMBARRASSINGLY SO.
SO WATCHING HIM AND HIS PARTNER, **BOOSTER GOLD**, BE SO OPEN ABOUT THEMSELVES REALLY HELPED ME.
AWWW!
I DON'T EVEN REMEMBER TALKING ABOUT OUR RELATIONSHIP TO PEOPLE!
ME NEITHER!
WE FORGOT TO COME OUT!!!

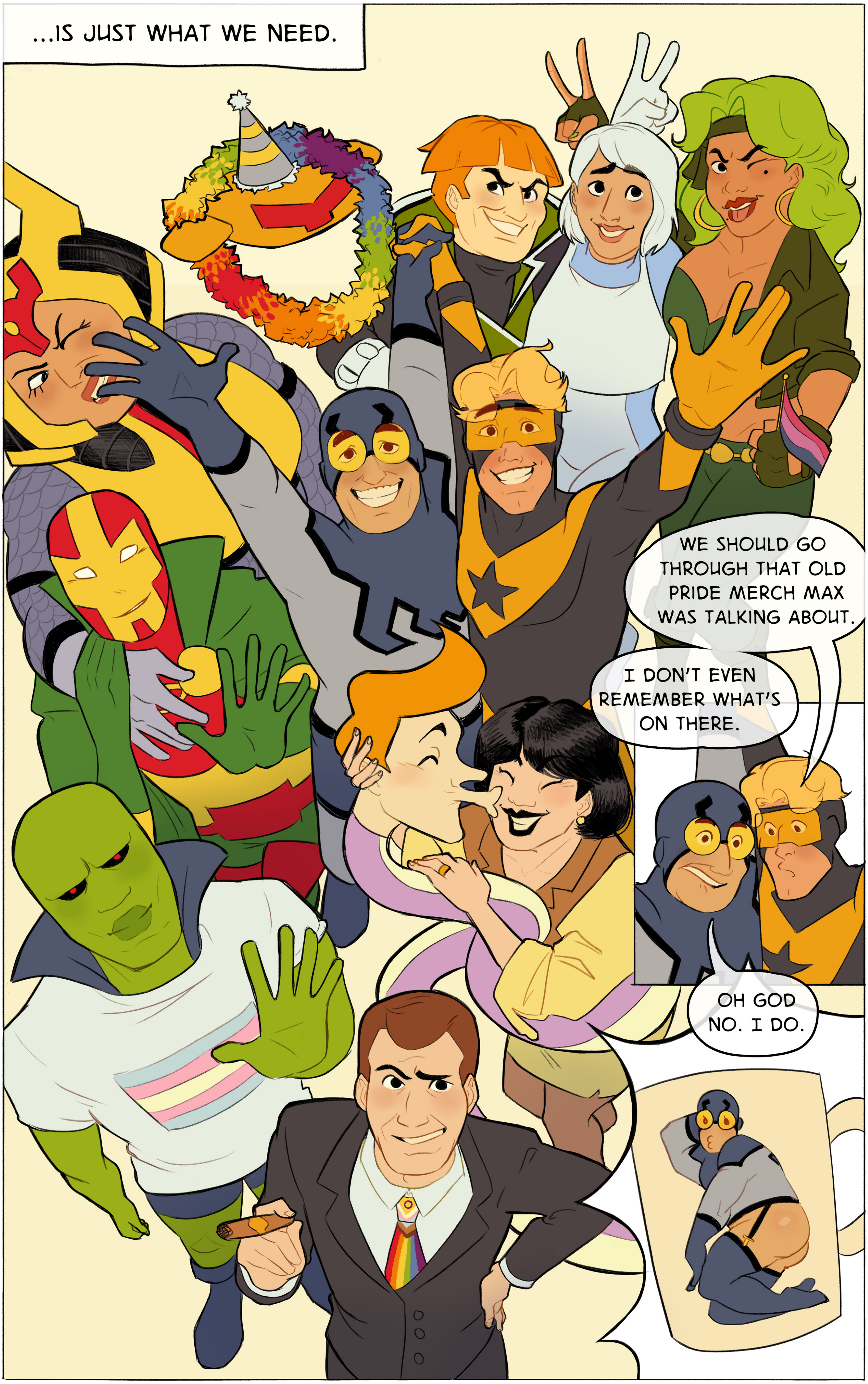

WHAT DO WE DO?!
I DON'T KNOW! I'VE NEVER COME OUT BEFORE!
FART LOADING
FOR ONCE, I'M THE ONLY ONE WITH EXPERIENCE.
WELL THEN, START THINKING!
FOR ONCE, I DON'T HAVE ANY IDEAS!
'FOR ONCE' IS THE UNDERSTATEMENT OF THE YEAR.
... WE STILL HAVE TIME BEFORE THE VIDEO REACHES MORE PLATFORMS.
WE CAN GET TO MOST OF OUR FRIENDS BEFORE THEY SEE IT.
ALRIGHT!
BLUE AND GOLD
BACK IN ACTION ON ANOTHER TIME-CRUNCHING ADVENTURE!!!
AREN'T YOU FORGETTING SOMETHING?
WHAT?
WELL, YOUR SUIT, FOR ONE.
OH, RIGHT!
BLUE AND GOLD BACK IN ACTION!
...AS SOON AS WE GET DRESSED.

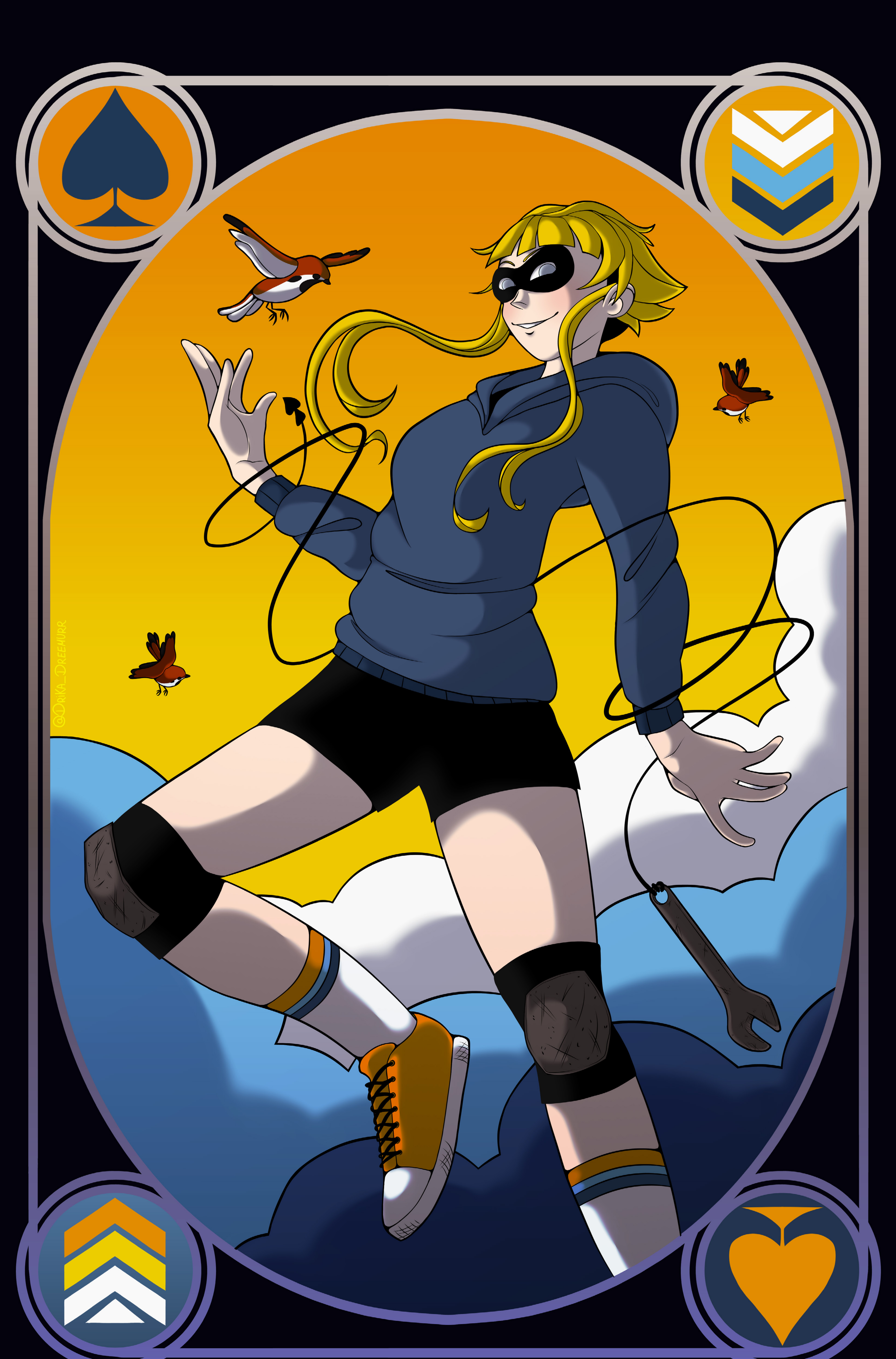

I MEAN, HAVEN'T YOU GUYS BEEN ON AND OFF SINCE THE JUSTICE LEAGUE?
HAVE YOU NOT...
I ALWAYS THOUGHT THERE WAS SOMETHING BETWEEN YOU GUYS!
HOW SWEET!
WHY DO YOU THINK HALF THE PRIDE MERCH WAS ALWAYS CENTERED AROUND YOU TWO?
I HAVE TO AGREE.
I THOUGHT IT WAS... WELL, OBVIOUS.
I have a pretty good gaydar...
WE GET IT!
YER GAY!
THAT DOUBLE DATE WE WENT ON...
WHAT DID YOU TWO THINK THAT WAS?
I'M JUST GLAD WE CAN FINALLY TALK ABOUT IT.
WAIT, REALLY? YOU GUYS ARE TOGETHER?
SINCE WHEN?
I FEEL LIKE IT WAS PRETTY CLEAR I ALREADY KNEW.


EVERYBODY KNEW!?
EXCEPT RALPH.
EXCEPT-!
ACTUALLY, THAT ONE MAKES SENSE.
STILL! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT WAS SO OBVIOUS!
THE FACT THAT EVEN ROBIN KNEW...
NOW THAT I'M THINKING ABOUT IT FOR ONCE...
WHAT'S WITH YOU AND THAT PHRASE???
AW, COME ON, TEDDY!
WHAT'S GOT YOU SO HOT AND BOTHERED?
I-!
I...!
I DON'T KNOW.
I GUESS...
IT'S JUST WEIRD HAVING THIS PART OF MY LIFE BE SO... OUT THERE.
I'M NOT USED TO IT THE WAY YOU ARE.
HM... YEAH...
WHERE I COME FROM, BEING QUEER ISN'T REALLY THAT BIG OF A DEAL...
I GUESS I DON'T THINK ABOUT IT AS MUCH.
IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL TO ME EITHER!
?
...ARE YOU SURE?
WELL-! NO!
I THOUGHT BEING GAY WASN'T A BIG DEAL TO ME ANYMORE!
I THOUGHT I'D TAKEN ALL THIS TIME TO FINALLY ACCEPT MY IDENTITY.
BUT NOW THAT I KNOW IT'S GONNA BE- THAT IT'S BEEN- OUT THERE TO EVERYONE...
I FEEL LIKE I HAVE TO GO THROUGH WAITING FOR OTHER PEOPLE TO ACCEPT IT, TOO.
WELL... WHY?

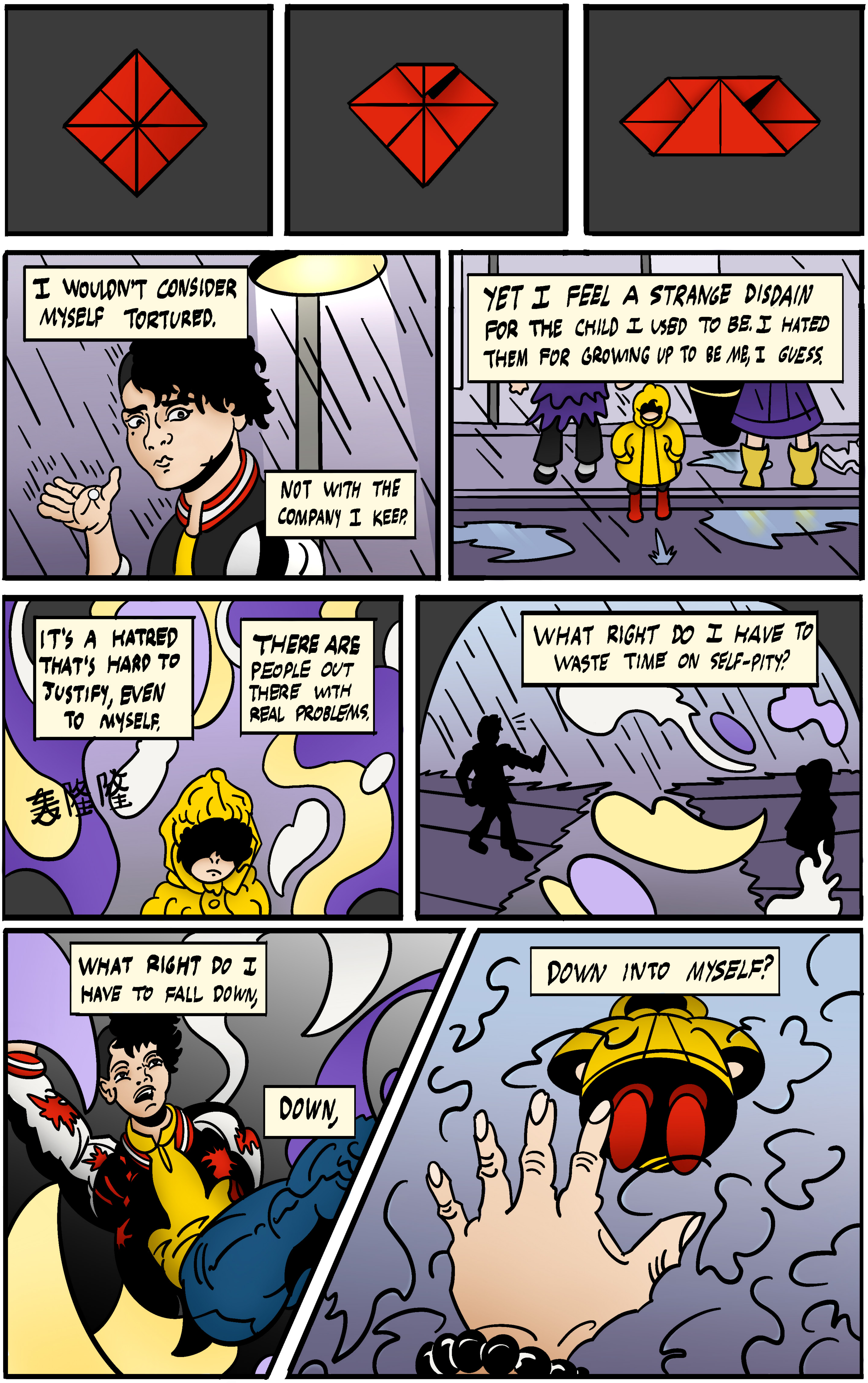

I DON'T KNOW... I KNOW I SHOULDN'T CARE ABOUT WHAT OTHER PEOPLE THINK, BUT I DO.
I'M SO USED TO BE TREATED LIKE A JOKE, BUT-
BUT WHAT? IT'S DIFFERENT WHEN YOU'RE A **GAY** JOKE?
...YEAH... I GUESS.
I THINK I KNOW YOUR PROBLEM.
SAID NO PSYCHIATRIST.
I THINK YOU JUST NEED REPRESENTATION!
REPRESENTATION?
THE THING ROBIN WAS TALKING ABOUT!
IN THE FUTURE, REPRESENTATION IS PART OF HOW BEING GAY BECOMES SO ACCEPTED.
WE HAVE TONS OF GAY CELEBRITIES IN THE FUTURE, STORIES ABOUT ALL KINDS OF DIFFERENT QUEER PEOPLE-
-SO WHEN I STARTED QUESTIONING MY IDENTITY-
IT WASN'T AS DIFFICULT FOR ME, OR OTHER PEOPLE, TO ACCEPT IT,
BECAUSE WE HAD ALREADY SEEN PEOPLE GO THROUGH WHAT I DID.... AND IT WAS REALLY... VALIDATING, I GUESS.
COME TO THINK OF IT,
I DIDN'T REALLY HAVE ANYONE LIKE THAT AS A KID.
I GUESS GROWING UP IN THE 80'S MAKES THINGS A LOT HARDER.
THIS IS WHAT I MEAN, THOUGH!
IF WE'RE AT A PLACE WHERE WE'RE THE ONES BECOMING REPRESENTATION FOR OTHERS...
THAT'S GOTTA MEAN SOMETHING, RIGHT?
THE BLUE AND GOLD...
QUEER REP...
WHO WOULD'VE GUESSED...
A LOT OF PEOPLE, ACTUALLY.
EXCEPT RALPH.
BWA-H HAHA

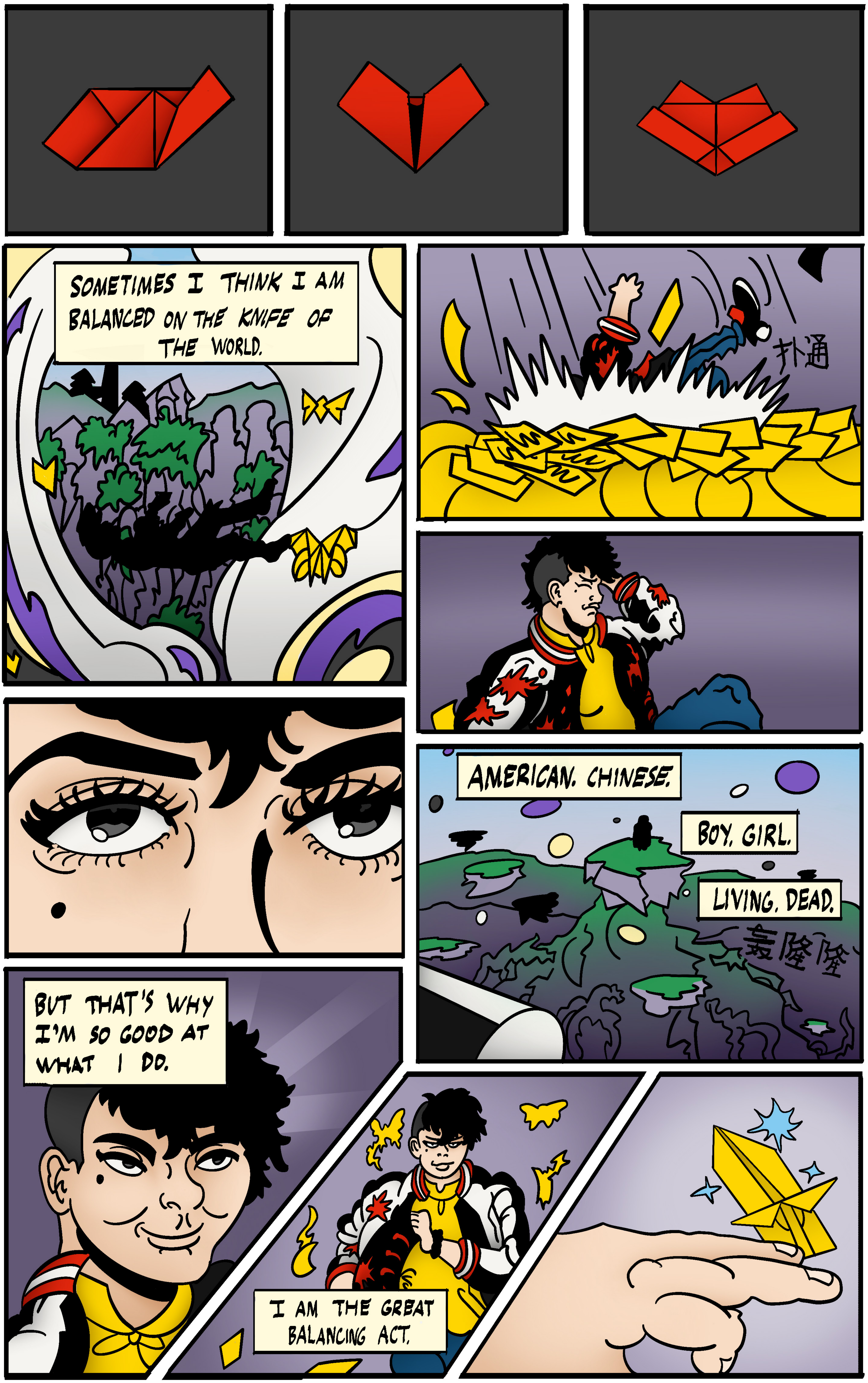

I GUESS I STILL HAVE SOME THINGS TO WORK THROUGH.
YOU'LL HAVE YOUR OLDEST BUDDY ON YOUR SIDE EVERY STEP OF THE WAY, TEDDY.
THANKS, BOOS.
WHAT DO YOU SAY WE JOIN THE CELEBRATION, YEAH?
WE CAME ALL THIS WAY.
I AGREE.
TED KORD... A ROLE MODEL... I GUESS HAVING REPRESENTATION IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN I REALISED.
BUT... I'M A SUPERHERO, FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH.
AND THAT MEANS IT'SMY JOB TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE.
IF I CAN BE FOR OTHERS WHAT I DIDN'T HAVE...
...THEN MAYBE BEING A GAY JOKE ISN'T SO BAD AFTER ALL.
IF ***BLUE BEETLE*** CAN MAKE OTHERS FEEL MORE SAFE IN THEIR IDENTITY...
MAYBE... PEOPLE WHO ARE PROUD OF THEIR IDENTITY, EVEN WHEN THERE'S BACKLASH, WHO STAND TALL NO MATTER WHAT...

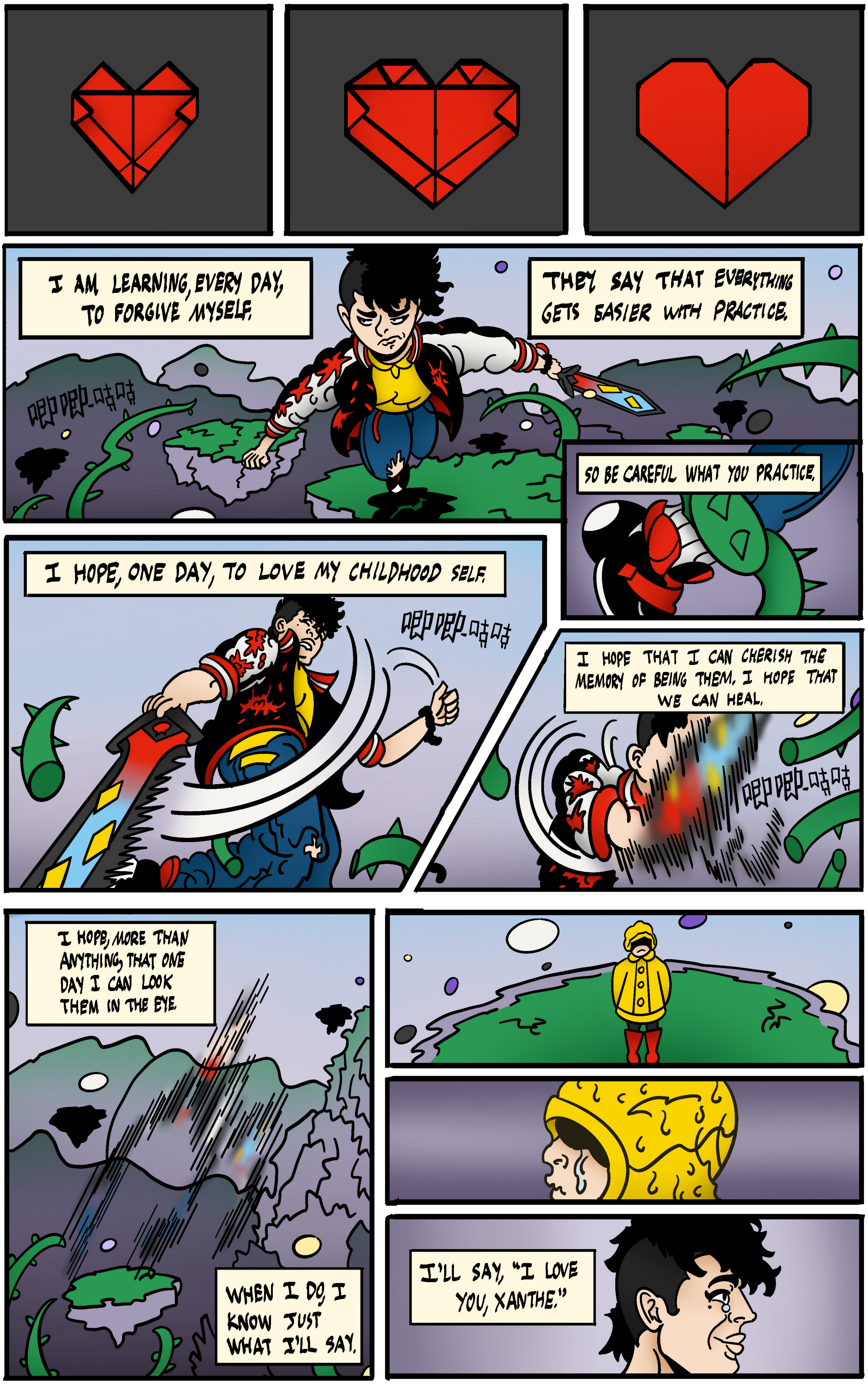

...IS JUST WHAT WE NEED.
WE SHOULD GO THROUGH THAT OLD PRIDE MERCH MAX WAS TALKING ABOUT.
I DON'T EVEN REMEMBER WHAT'S ON THERE.
OH GOD NO. I DO.

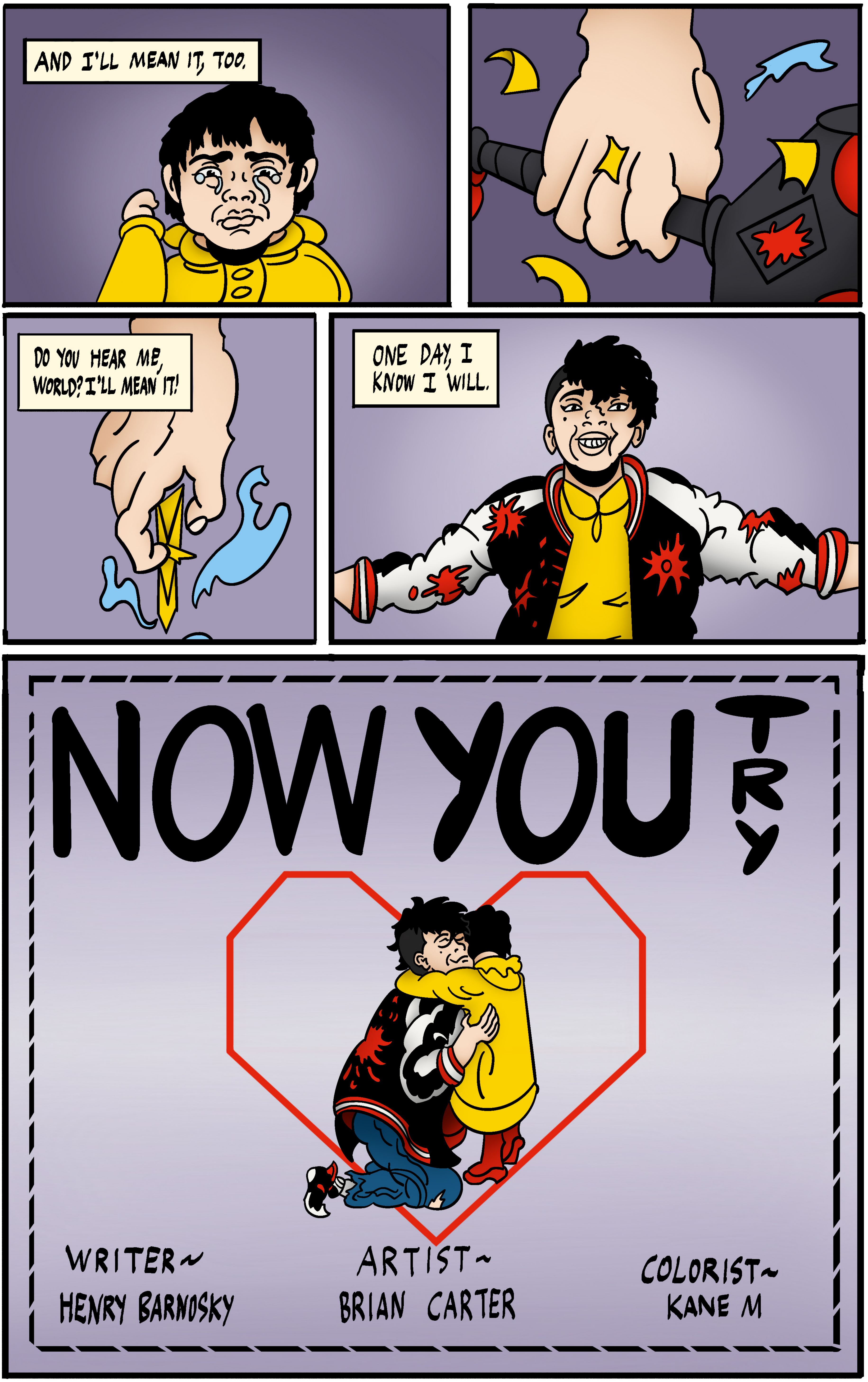

@DRiKA_DREEMURR

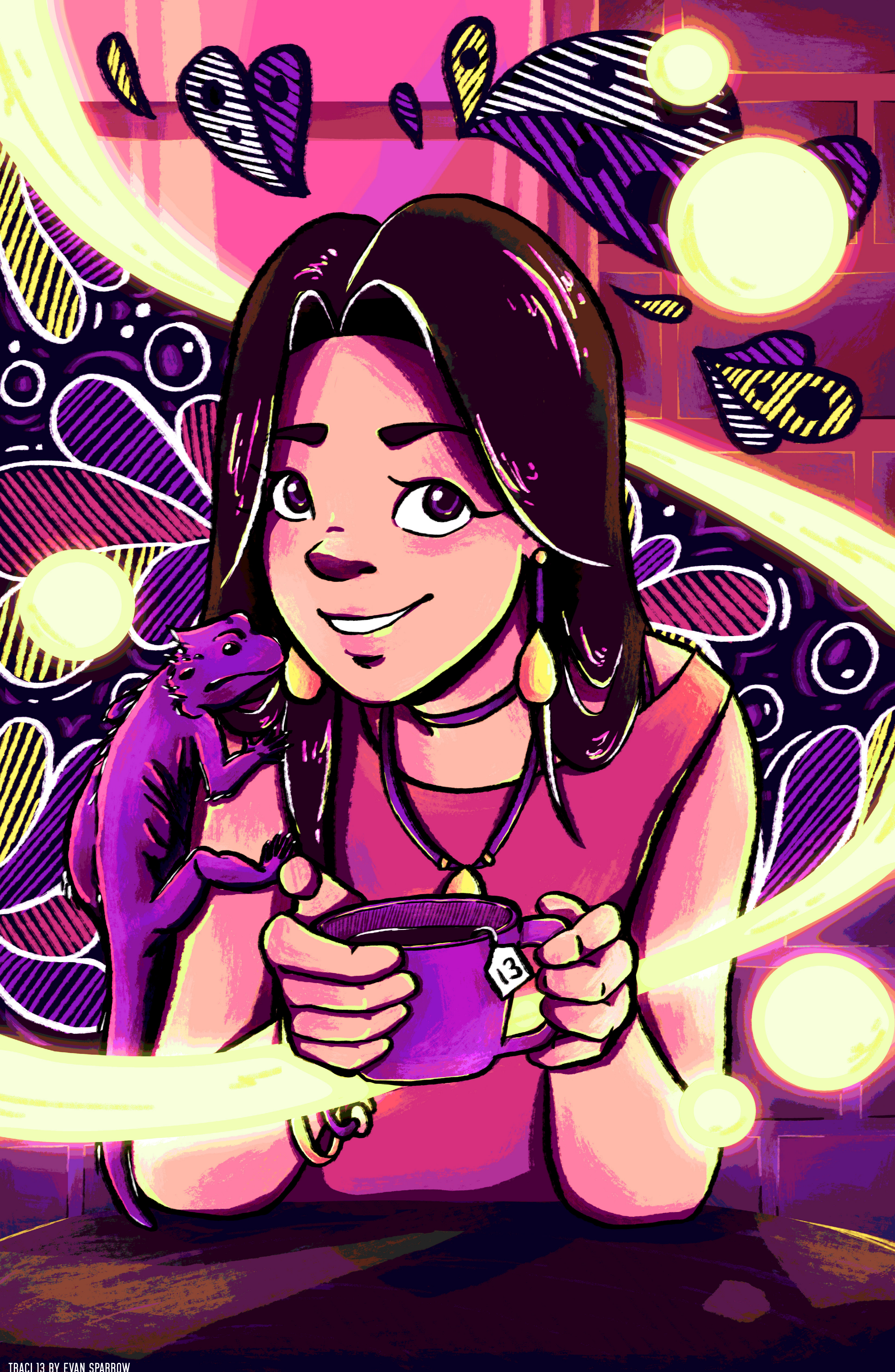
THE ACESPARROW BY DIRKA DREEMURR


I WOULDN'T CONSIDER MYSELF TORTURED.
NOT WITH THE COMPANY I KEEP.
YET I FEEL A STRANGE DISDAIN FOR THE CHILD I USED TO BE. I HATED THEM FOR GROWING UP TO BE ME, I GUESS.
IT'S A HATRED THAT'S HARD TO JUSTIFY, EVEN TO MYSELF.
THERE ARE PEOPLE OUT THERE WITH REAL PROBLEMS.
轰隆隆
WHAT RIGHT DO I HAVE TO WASTE TIME ON SELF-PITY?
WHAT RIGHT DO I HAVE TO FALL DOWN,
DOWN,
DOWN INTO MYSELF?


SOMETIMES I THINK I AM BALANCED ON THE KNIFE OF THE WORLD.
扑通
AMERICAN. CHINESE.
BOY. GIRL.
LIVING. DEAD.
轰隆隆
BUT THAT'S WHY I'M SO GOOD AT WHAT I DO.
I AM THE GREAT BALANCING ACT.


I AM LEARNING, EVERY DAY, TO FORGIVE MYSELF.
THEY SAY THAT EVERYTHING GETS EASIER WITH PRACTICE.
唧唧_咕咕
SO BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU PRACTICE.
I HOPE, ONE DAY, TO LOVE MY CHILDHOOD SELF.
唧唧_咕咕
I HOPE THAT I CAN CHERISH THE MEMORY OF BEING THEM. I HOPE THAT WE CAN HEAL.
唧唧_咕咕
I HOPE, MORE THAN ANYTHING, THAT ONE DAY I CAN LOOK THEM IN THE EYE.
WHEN I DO, I KNOW JUST WHAT I'LL SAY.
I'LL SAY, "I LOVE YOU, XANTHE."

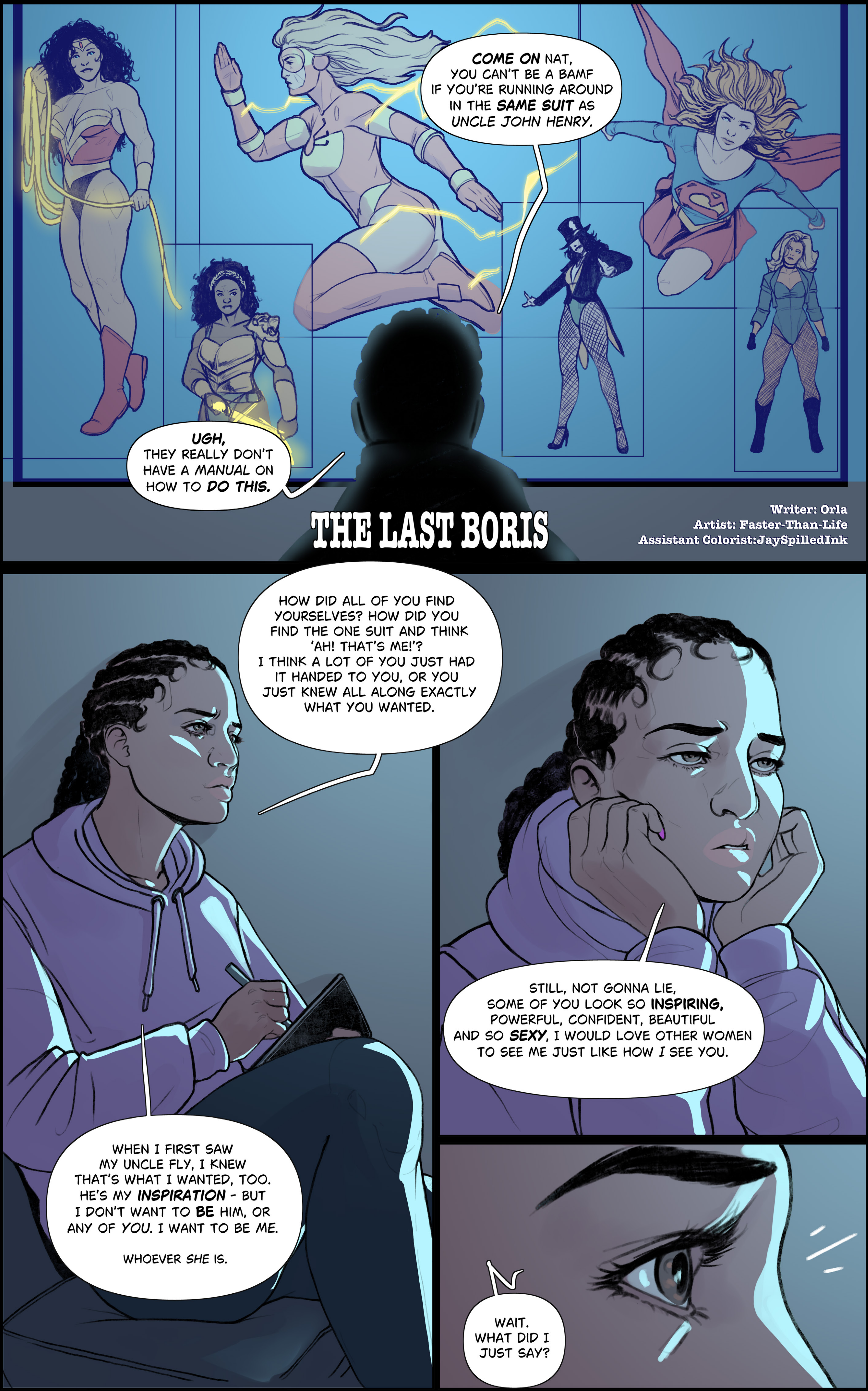

AND I'LL MEAN IT, TOO.
DO YOU HEAR ME, WORLD? I'LL MEAN IT!
ONE DAY, I KNOW I WILL.
NOW YOU TRY
WRITER~ HENRY BARNOSKY
ARTIST~ BRIAN CARTER
COLORIST~ KANE M

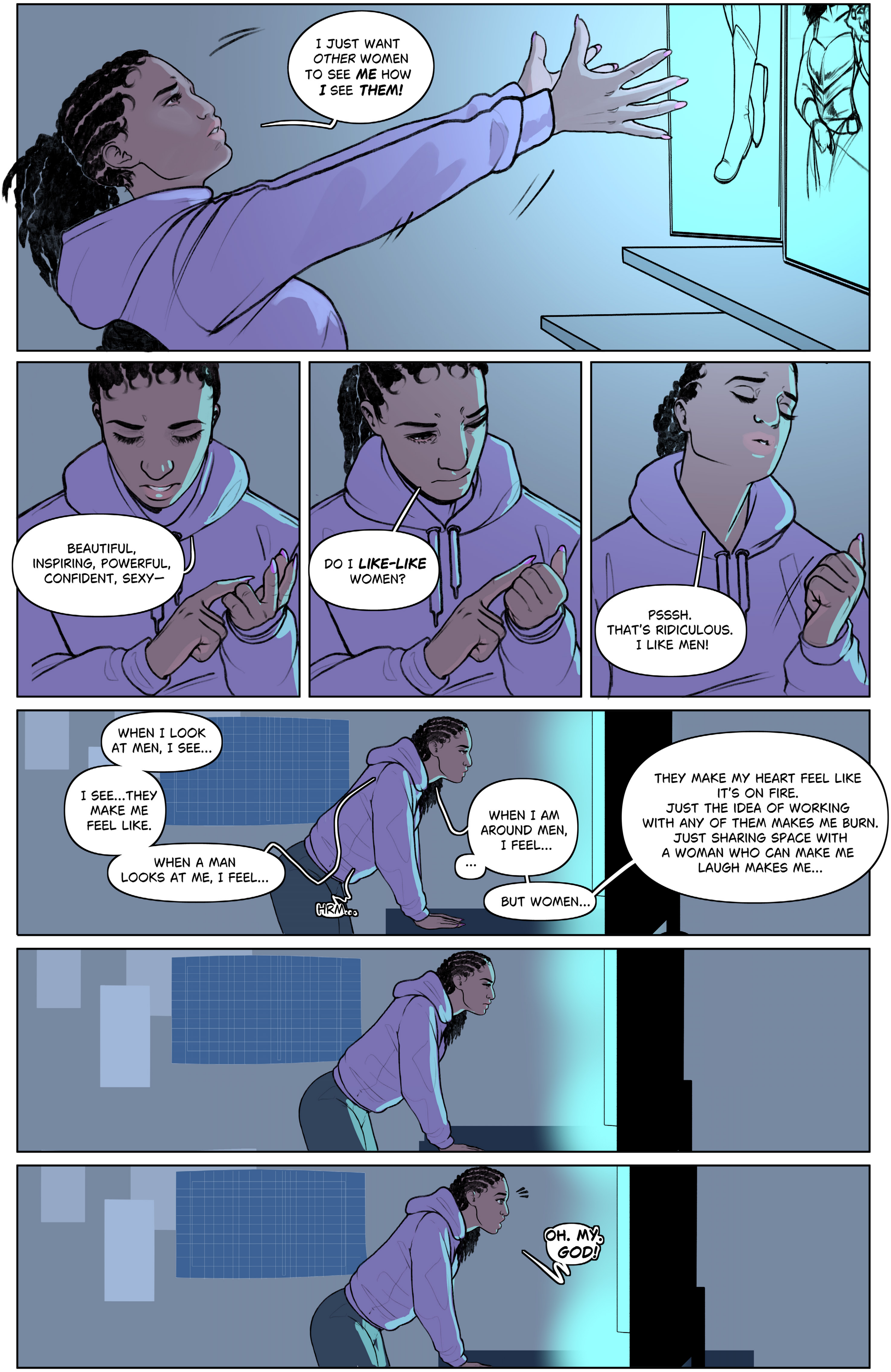


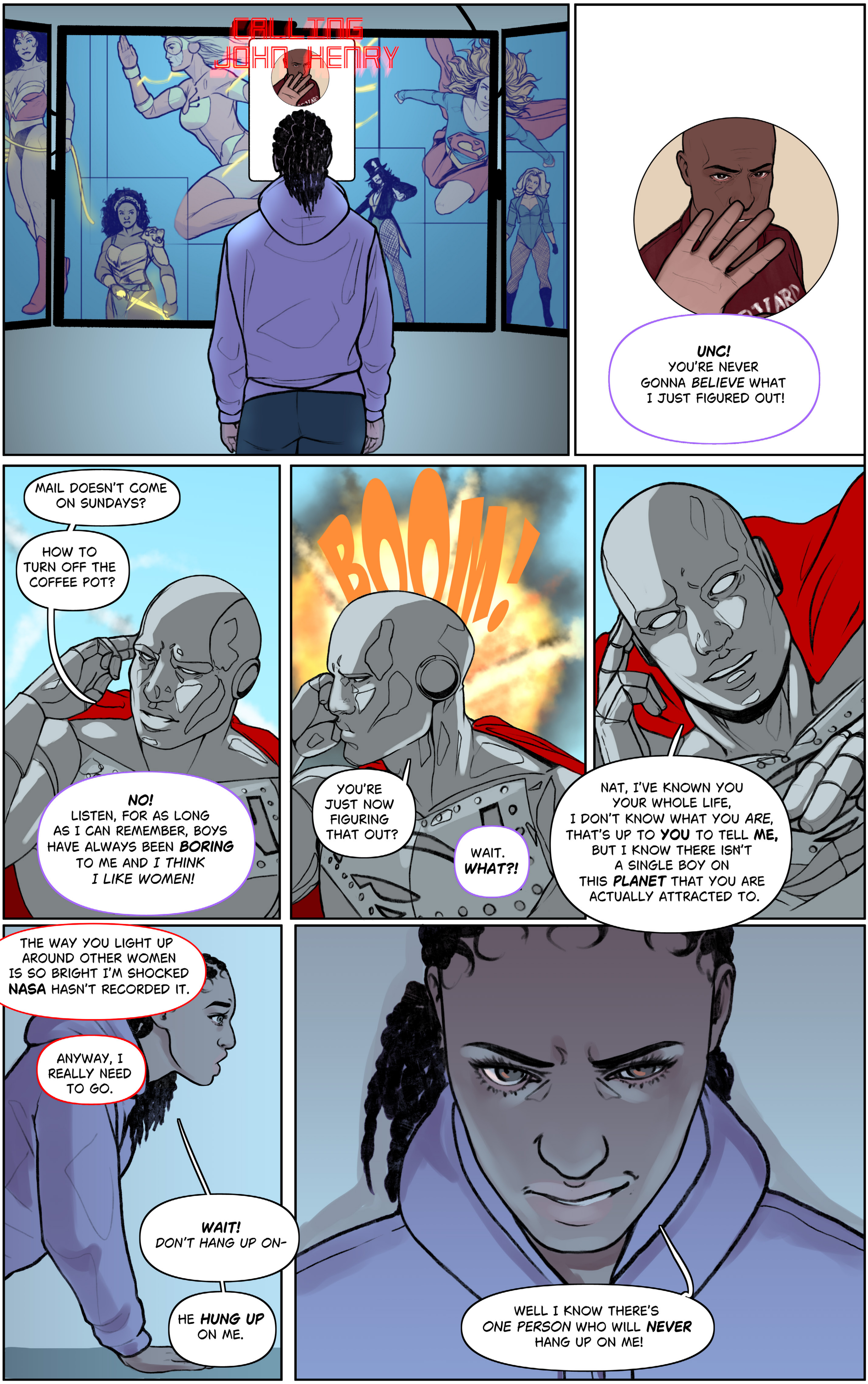
TRACI 13 BY EVAN SPARROW

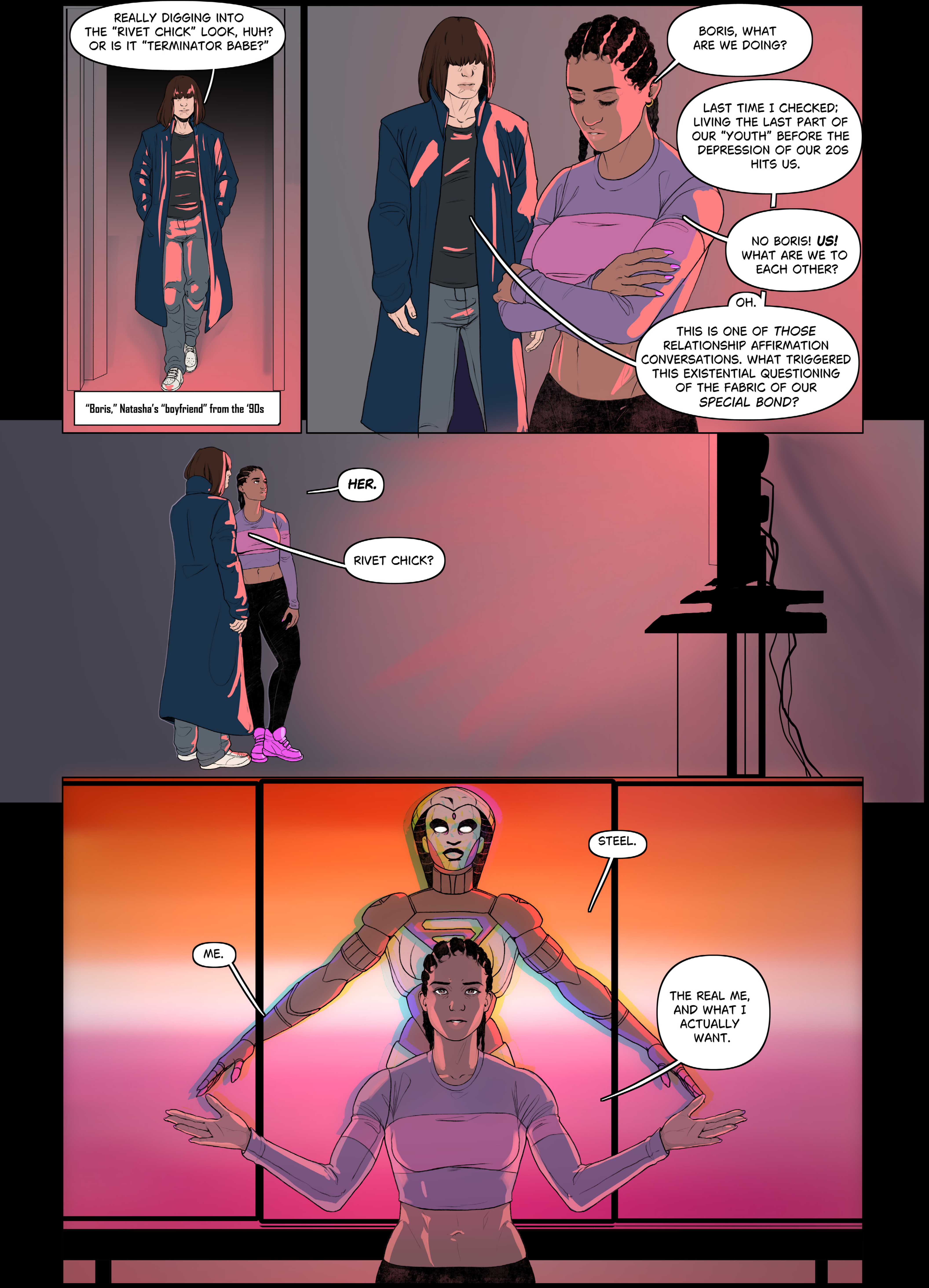
THE LAST BORIS

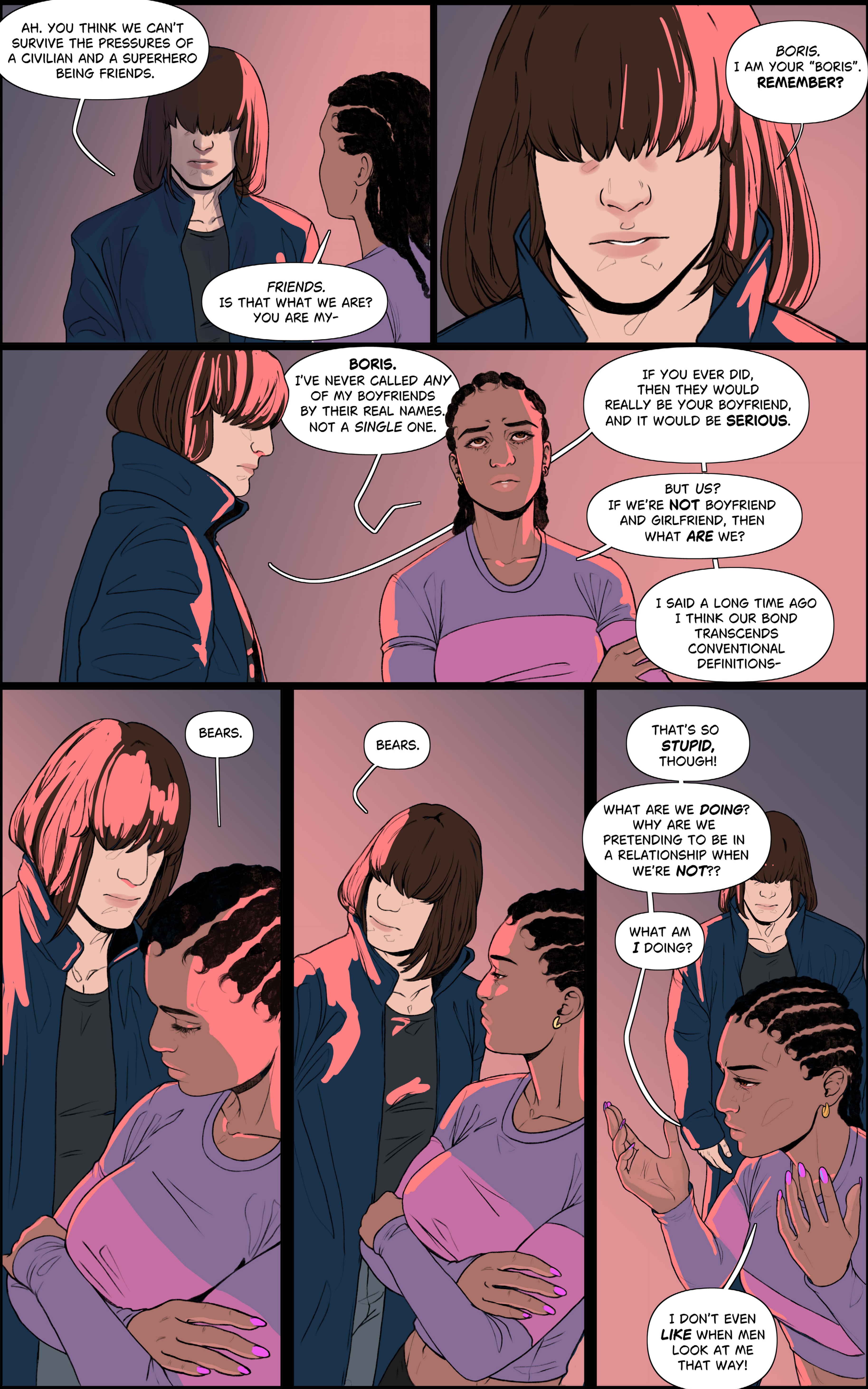
Writer: Orla
Artist: Faster-Than-Life
Assistant Colorist:JaySpilledInk

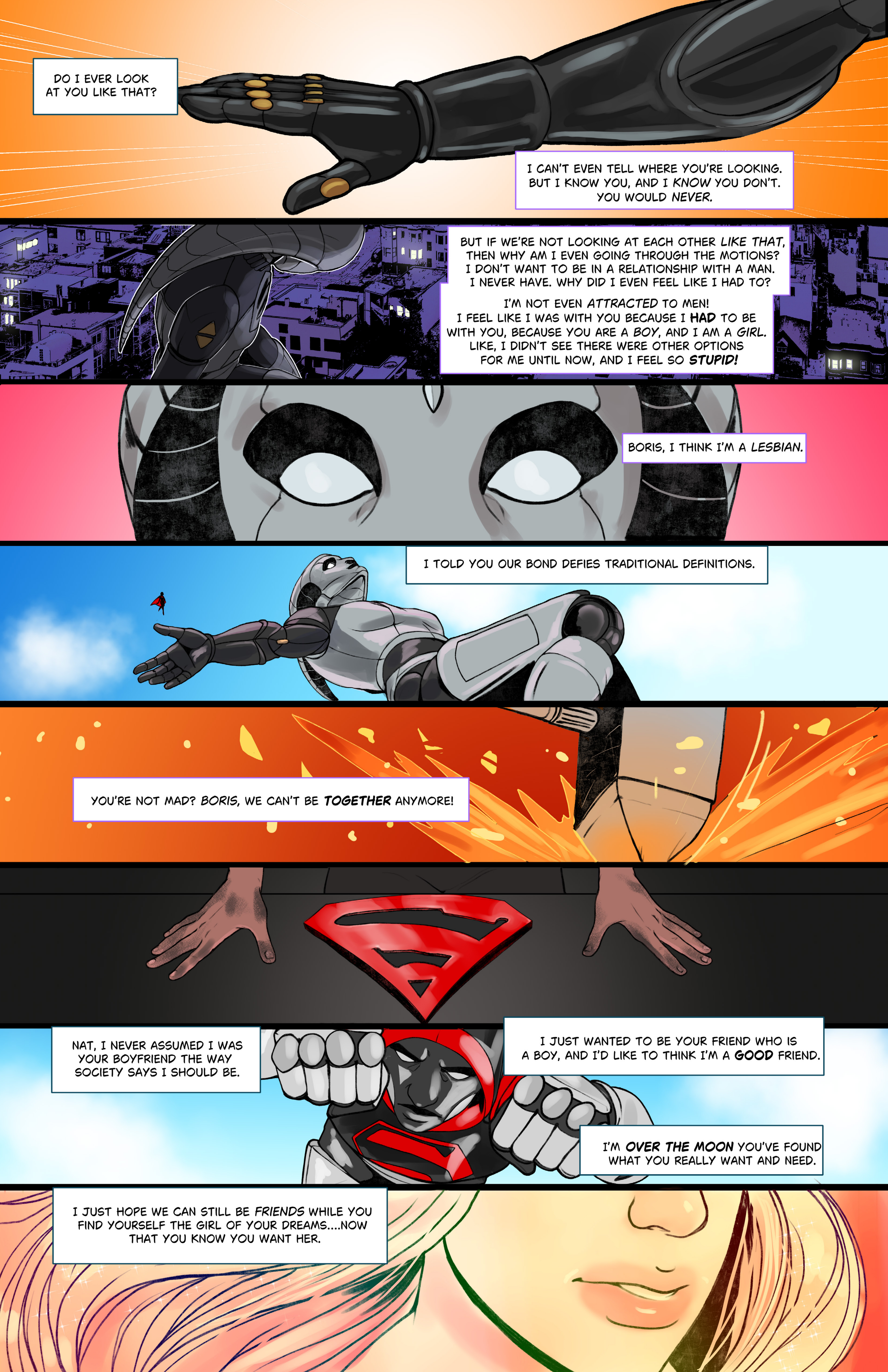

COME ON NAT, YOU CAN'T BE A BAMF IF YOU'RE RUNNING AROUND IN THE SAME SUIT AS UNCLE JOHN HENRY.
UGH, THEY REALLY DON'T HAVE A MANUAL ON HOW TO DO THIS.
HOW DID ALL OF YOU FIND YOURSELVES? HOW DID YOU FIND THE ONE SUIT AND THINK 'AH! THAT'S ME!'? I THINK A LOT OF YOU JUST HAD IT HANDED TO YOU, OR YOU JUST KNEW ALL ALONG EXACTLY WHAT YOU WANTED.
WHEN I FIRST SAW MY UNCLE FLY, I KNEW THAT'S WHAT I WANTED, TOO. HE'S MY INSPIRATION - BUT I DON'T WANT TO BE HIM, OR ANY OF YOU. I WANT TO BE ME. WHOEVER SHE IS.
STILL, NOT GONNA LIE, SOME OF YOU LOOK SO INSPIRING, POWERFUL, CONFIDENT, BEAUTIFUL AND SO SEXY, I WOULD LOVE OTHER WOMEN TO SEE ME JUST LIKE HOW I SEE YOU.
WAIT. WHAT DID I JUST SAY?

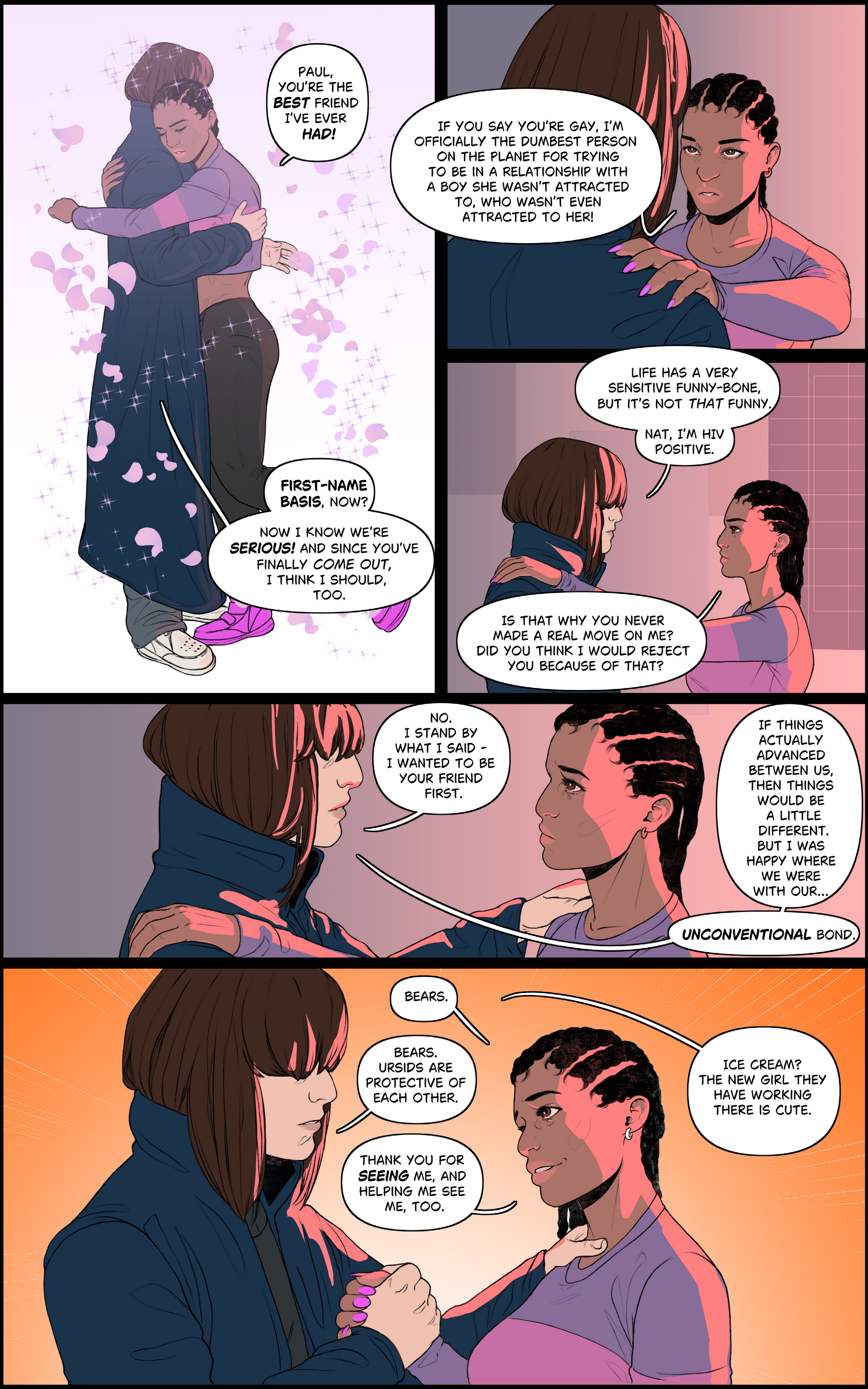

I JUST WANT OTHER WOMEN TO SEE **ME** HOW **I** SEE **THEM!**
BEAUTIFUL, INSPIRING, POWERFUL, CONFIDENT, SEXY—
DO I **LIKE-LIKE** WOMEN?
PSSSH. THAT'S RIDICULOUS. I LIKE MEN!
WHEN I LOOK AT MEN, I SEE...
I SEE...THEY MAKE ME FEEL LIKE.
WHEN A MAN LOOKS AT ME, I FEEL...
HRM...
WHEN I AM AROUND MEN, I FEEL...
...
BUT WOMEN...
THEY MAKE MY HEART FEEL LIKE IT'S ON FIRE. JUST THE IDEA OF WORKING WITH ANY OF THEM MAKES ME BURN. JUST SHARING SPACE WITH A WOMAN WHO CAN MAKE ME LAUGH MAKES ME...
OH. MY. GOD!


CALLING JOHN HENRY
UNC! YOU'RE NEVER GONNA *BELIEVE* WHAT I JUST FIGURED OUT!
MAIL DOESN'T COME ON SUNDAYS?
HOW TO TURN OFF THE COFFEE POT?
NO! LISTEN, FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER, BOYS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN ***BORING*** TO ME AND *I THINK I LIKE WOMEN!*
BOOM!
YOU'RE JUST NOW FIGURING THAT OUT?
WAIT. ***WHAT?!***
NAT, I'VE KNOWN YOU YOUR WHOLE LIFE, I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU *ARE*, THAT'S UP TO **YOU** TO TELL **ME,** BUT I KNOW THERE ISN'T A SINGLE BOY ON THIS **PLANET** THAT YOU ARE ACTUALLY ATTRACTED TO.
THE WAY YOU LIGHT UP AROUND OTHER WOMEN IS SO BRIGHT I'M SHOCKED **NASA** HASN'T RECORDED IT.
ANYWAY, I REALLY NEED TO GO.
WAIT! *DON'T HANG UP ON-*
HE ***HUNG UP*** ON ME.
WELL I KNOW THERE'S *ONE PERSON WHO WILL* ***NEVER*** HANG UP ON ME!

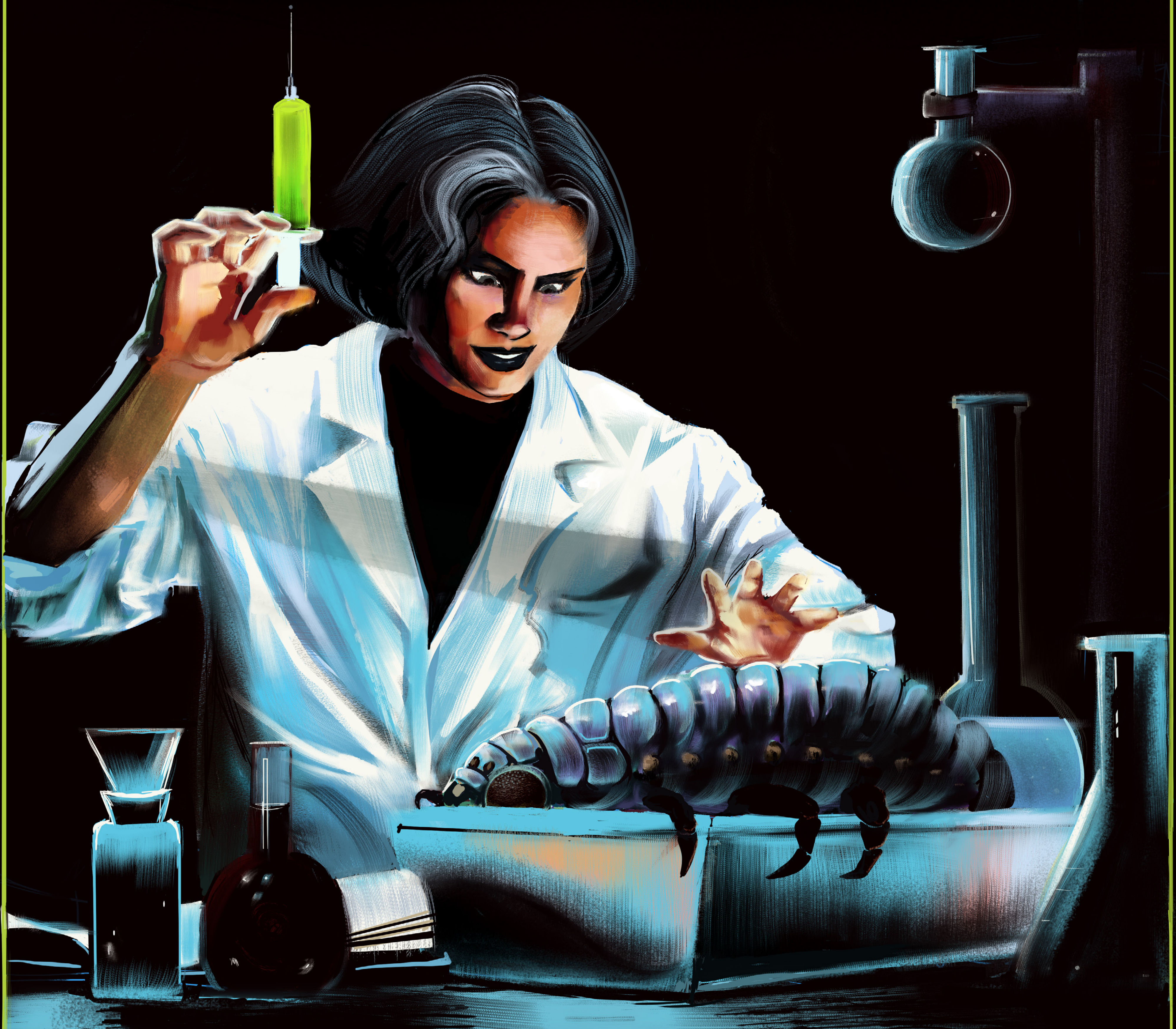

REALLY DIGGING INTO THE "RIVET CHICK" LOOK, HUH? OR IS IT "TERMINATOR BABE?"
"Boris," Natasha's "boyfriend" from the '90s
BORIS, WHAT ARE WE DOING?
LAST TIME I CHECKED; LIVING THE LAST PART OF OUR "YOUTH" BEFORE THE DEPRESSION OF OUR 20S HITS US.
NO BORIS! *US!* WHAT ARE WE TO EACH OTHER?
OH.
THIS IS ONE OF *THOSE* RELATIONSHIP AFFIRMATION CONVERSATIONS. WHAT TRIGGERED THIS EXISTENTIAL QUESTIONING OF THE FABRIC OF OUR *SPECIAL BOND?*
HER.
RIVET CHICK?
STEEL.
ME.
THE REAL ME, AND WHAT I ACTUALLY WANT.


AH. YOU THINK WE CAN'T SURVIVE THE PRESSURES OF A CIVILIAN AND A SUPERHERO BEING FRIENDS.
FRIENDS. IS THAT WHAT WE ARE? YOU ARE MY-
BORIS. I AM YOUR "BORIS". REMEMBER?
BORIS. I'VE NEVER CALLED ANY OF MY BOYFRIENDS BY THEIR REAL NAMES. NOT A SINGLE ONE.
IF YOU EVER DID, THEN THEY WOULD REALLY BE YOUR BOYFRIEND, AND IT WOULD BE SERIOUS.
BUT US? IF WE'RE NOT BOYFRIEND AND GIRLFRIEND, THEN WHAT ARE WE?
I SAID A LONG TIME AGO I THINK OUR BOND TRANSCENDS CONVENTIONAL DEFINITIONS-
BEARS.
BEARS.
THAT'S SO STUPID, THOUGH!
WHAT ARE WE DOING? WHY ARE WE PRETENDING TO BE IN A RELATIONSHIP WHEN WE'RE NOT??
WHAT AM I DOING?
I DON'T EVEN LIKE WHEN MEN LOOK AT ME THAT WAY!


DO I EVER LOOK AT YOU LIKE THAT?
I CAN'T EVEN TELL WHERE YOU'RE LOOKING. BUT I KNOW YOU, AND I KNOW YOU DON'T. YOU WOULD *NEVER*.
BUT IF WE'RE NOT LOOKING AT EACH OTHER *LIKE THAT*, THEN WHY AM I EVEN GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS? I DON'T WANT TO BE IN A RELATIONSHIP WITH A MAN. I NEVER HAVE. WHY DID I EVEN FEEL LIKE I HAD TO?
I'M NOT EVEN *ATTRACTED* TO MEN! I FEEL LIKE I WAS WITH YOU BECAUSE I **HAD** TO BE WITH YOU, BECAUSE YOU ARE A *BOY*, AND I AM A *GIRL*. LIKE, I DIDN'T SEE THERE WERE OTHER OPTIONS FOR ME UNTIL NOW, AND I FEEL SO ***STUPID!***
BORIS, I THINK I'M A *LESBIAN*.
I TOLD YOU OUR BOND DEFIES TRADITIONAL DEFINITIONS.
YOU'RE NOT MAD? *BORIS*, WE CAN'T BE ***TOGETHER*** ANYMORE!
NAT, I NEVER ASSUMED I WAS YOUR BOYFRIEND THE WAY SOCIETY SAYS I SHOULD BE.
I JUST WANTED TO BE YOUR FRIEND WHO IS A BOY, AND I'D LIKE TO THINK I'M A **GOOD** FRIEND.
I'M ***OVER THE MOON*** YOU'VE FOUND WHAT YOU REALLY WANT AND NEED.
I JUST HOPE WE CAN STILL BE *FRIENDS* WHILE YOU FIND YOURSELF THE GIRL OF YOUR DREAMS....NOW THAT YOU KNOW YOU WANT HER.

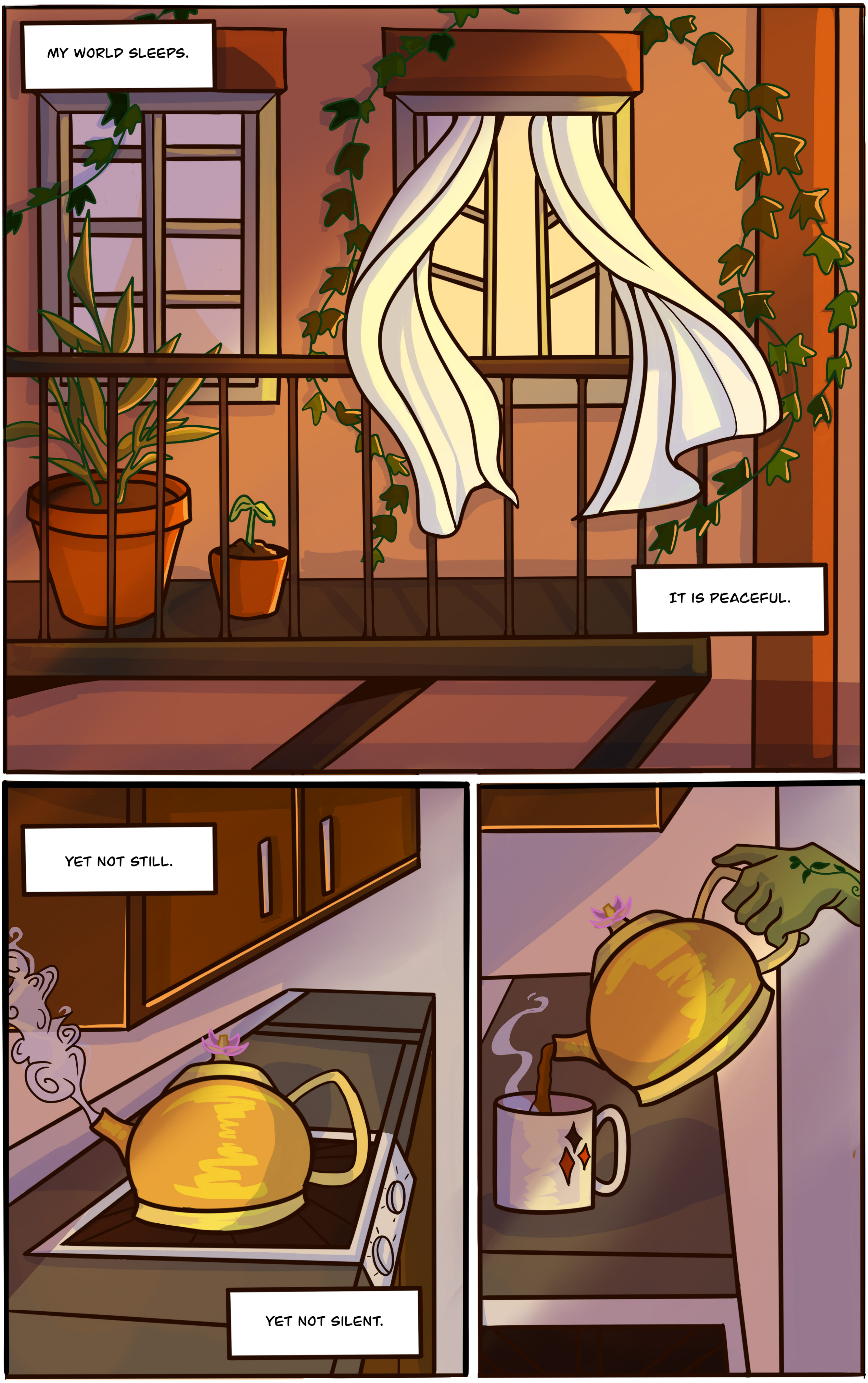

PAUL, YOU'RE THE **BEST** FRIEND I'VE EVER ***HAD!***
FIRST-NAME BASIS, NOW?
NOW I KNOW WE'RE ***SERIOUS!*** AND SINCE YOU'VE FINALLY *COME OUT*, I THINK I SHOULD, TOO.
IF YOU SAY YOU'RE GAY, I'M OFFICIALLY THE DUMBEST PERSON ON THE PLANET FOR TRYING TO BE IN A RELATIONSHIP WITH A BOY SHE WASN'T ATTRACTED TO, WHO WASN'T EVEN ATTRACTED TO HER!
LIFE HAS A VERY SENSITIVE FUNNY-BONE, BUT IT'S NOT *THAT* FUNNY.
NAT, I'M HIV POSITIVE.
IS THAT WHY YOU NEVER MADE A REAL MOVE ON ME? DID YOU THINK I WOULD REJECT YOU BECAUSE OF THAT?
NO. I STAND BY WHAT I SAID - I WANTED TO BE YOUR FRIEND FIRST.
IF THINGS ACTUALLY ADVANCED BETWEEN US, THEN THINGS WOULD BE A LITTLE DIFFERENT. BUT I WAS HAPPY WHERE WE WERE WITH OUR...
UNCONVENTIONAL BOND.
THANK YOU FOR ***SEEING*** ME, AND HELPING ME SEE ME, TOO.
BEARS. URSIDS ARE PROTECTIVE OF EACH OTHER.
BEARS.
ICE CREAM? THE NEW GIRL THEY HAVE WORKING THERE IS CUTE.

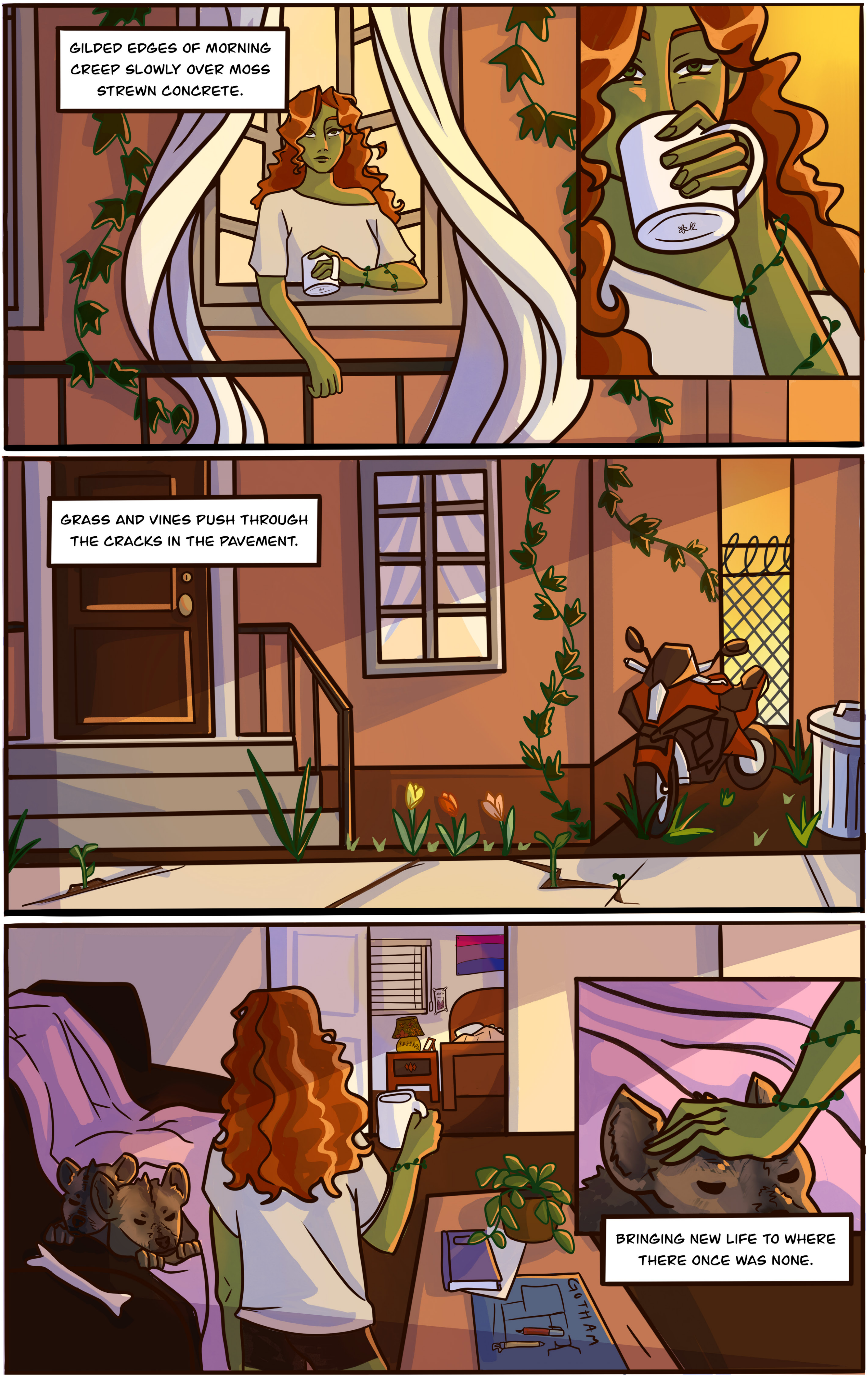
DOCTOR
OCTOBER

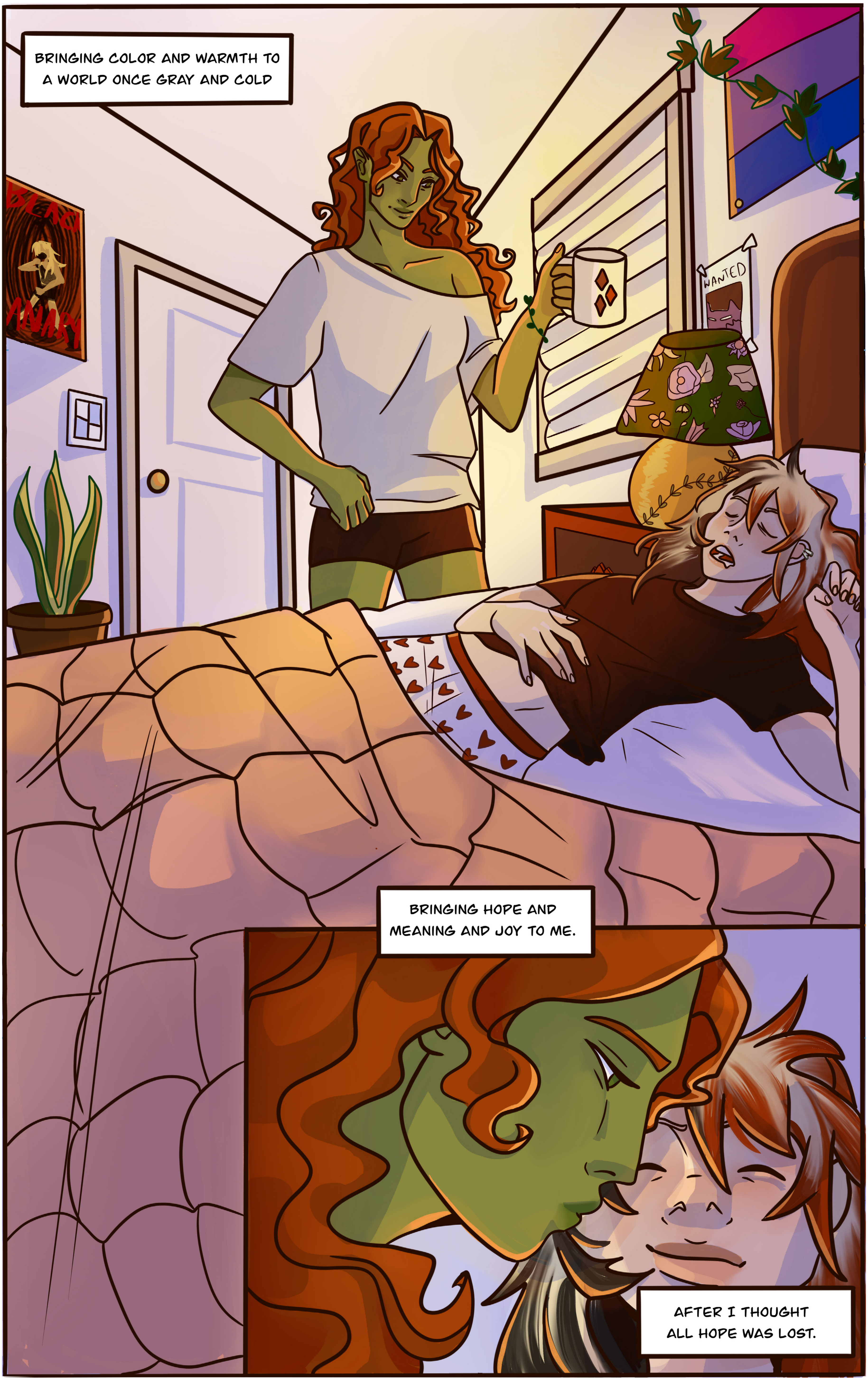


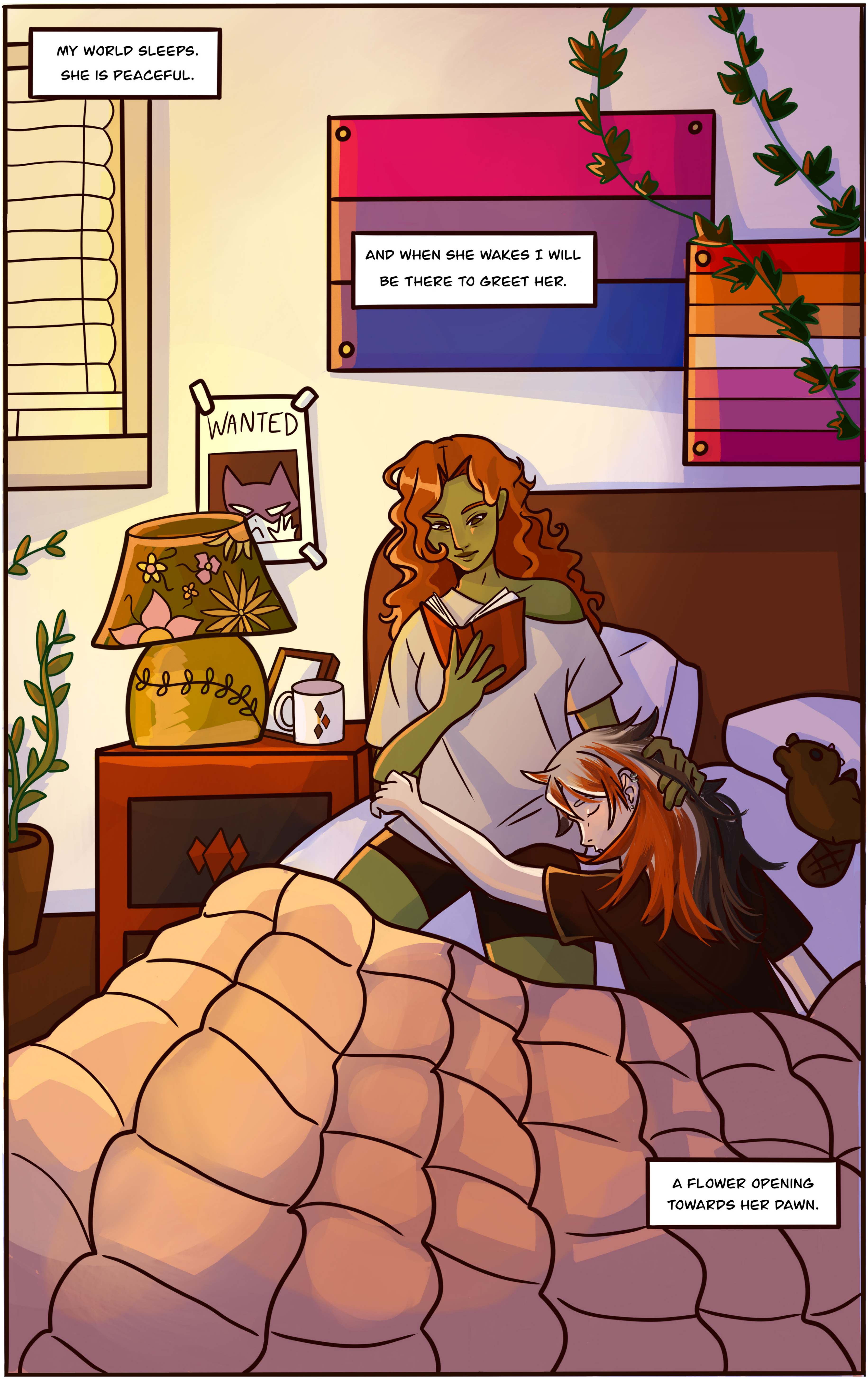
"I'M ALWAYS SYMPATHETIC TO **MONSTERS**. IT'S
MY LIFE'S WORK. I'M USED TO WALKING THAT
PATH ALONE"

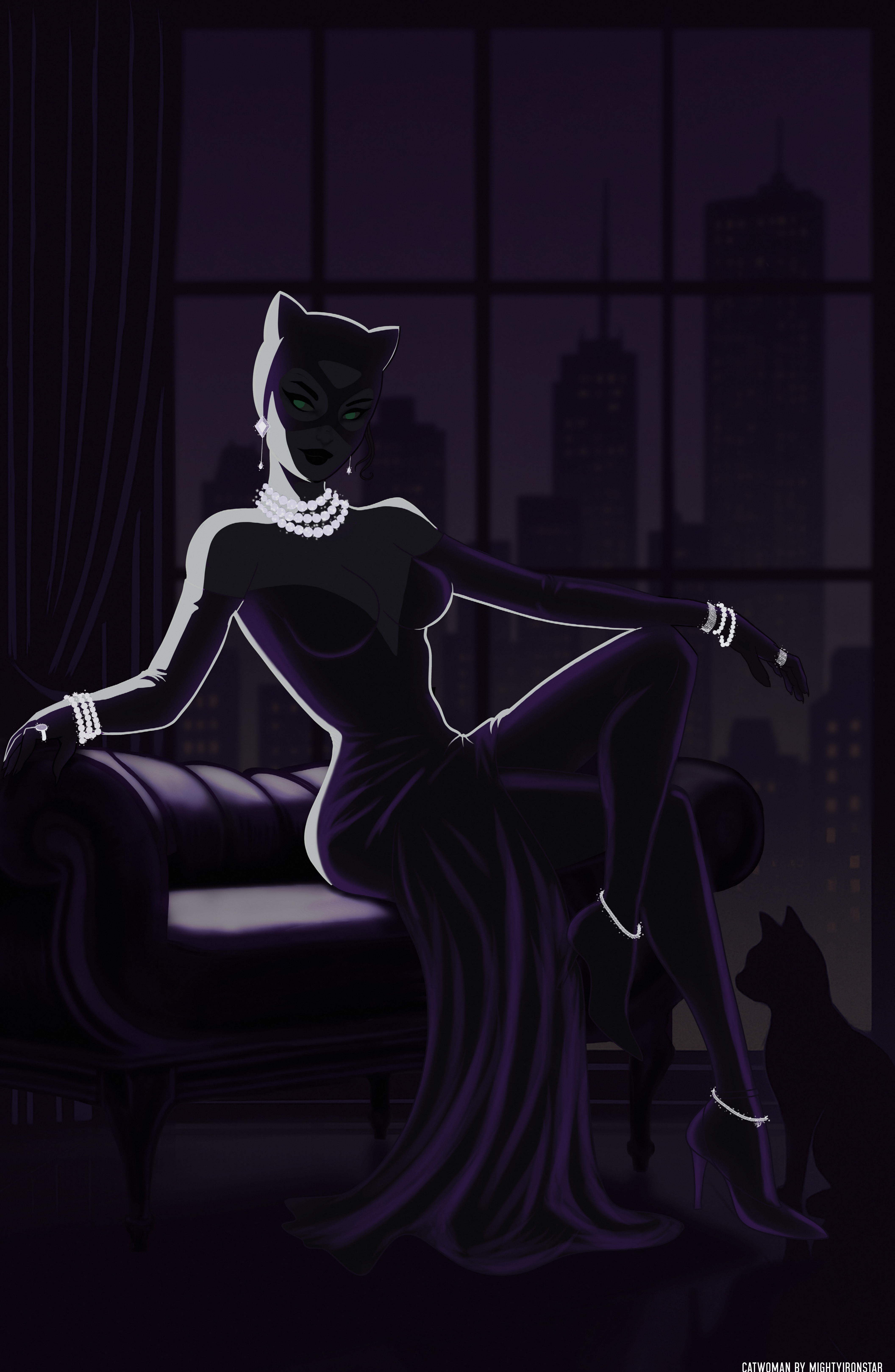
DOCTOR OCTOBER BY ROSE


MY WORLD SLEEPS.
IT IS PEACEFUL.
YET NOT STILL.
YET NOT SILENT.

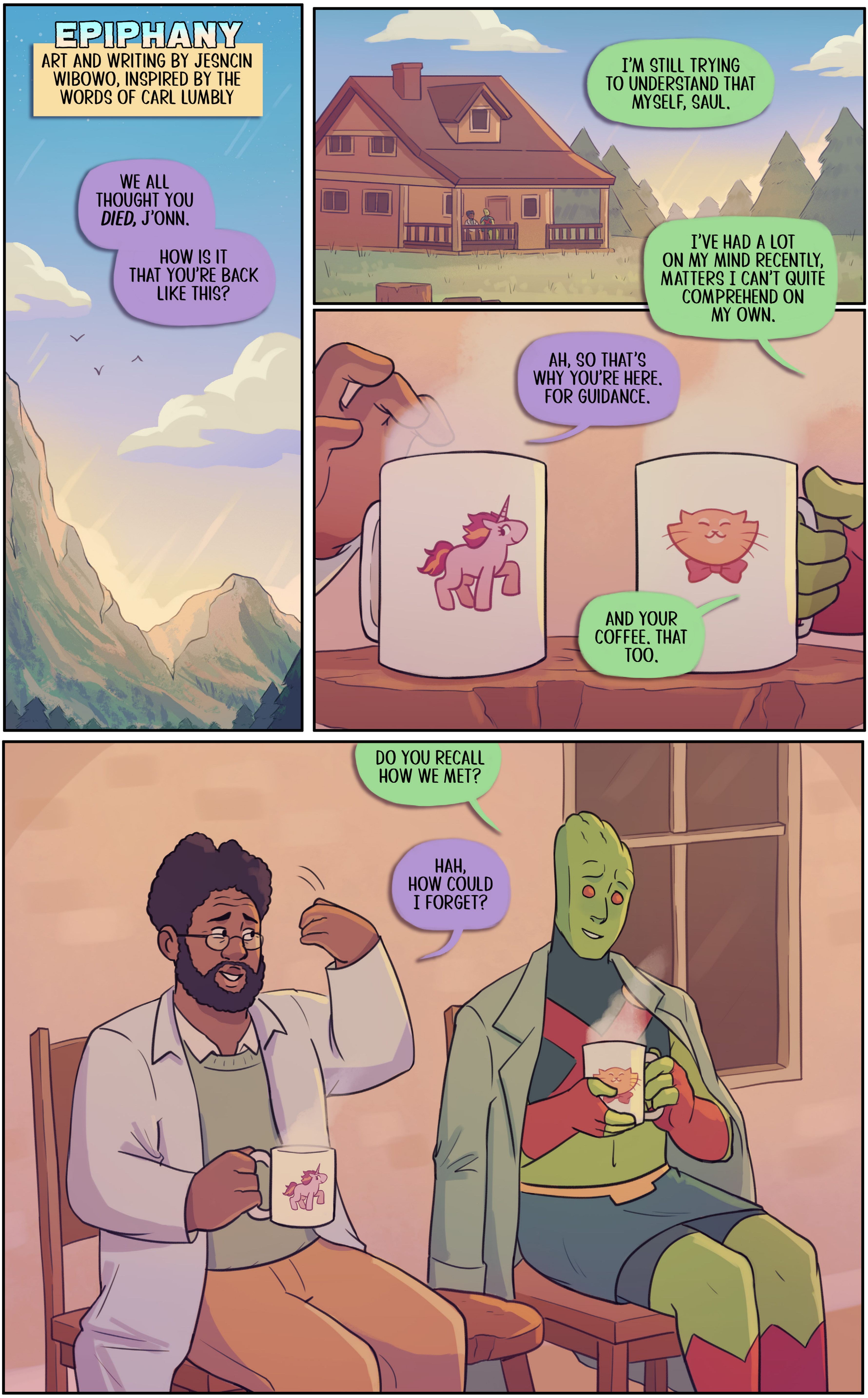

GILDED EDGES OF MORNING CREEP SLOWLY OVER MOSS STREWN CONCRETE.
GRASS AND VINES PUSH THROUGH THE CRACKS IN THE PAVEMENT.
BRINGING NEW LIFE TO WHERE THERE ONCE WAS NONE.
GOTHAM

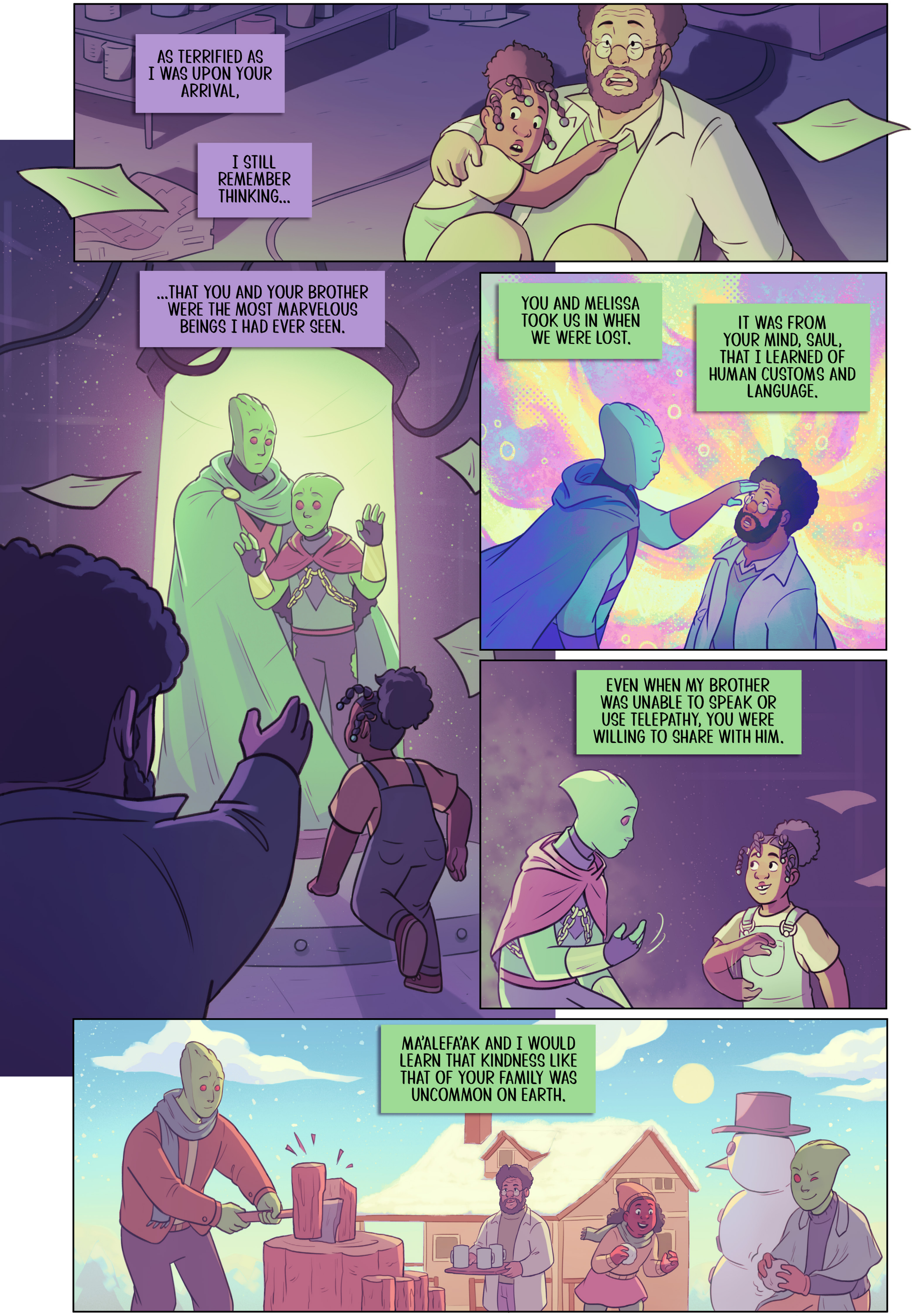

BRINGING COLOR AND WARMTH TO
A WORLD ONCE GRAY AND COLD
WANTED
BRINGING HOPE AND
MEANING AND JOY TO ME.
AFTER I THOUGHT
ALL HOPE WAS LOST.

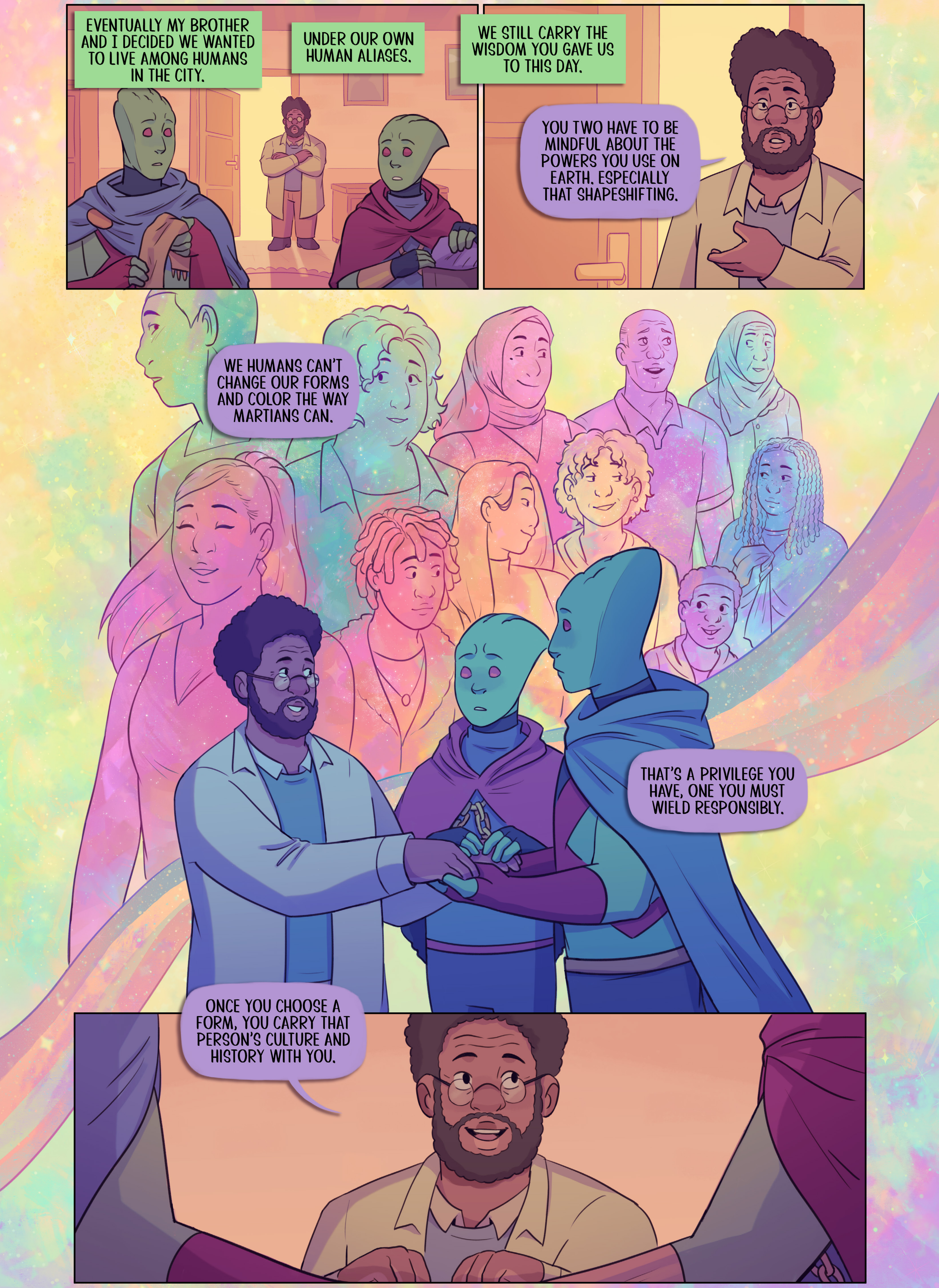

MY WORLD SLEEPS.
SHE IS PEACEFUL.
WANTED
AND WHEN SHE WAKES I WILL BE THERE TO GREET HER.
A FLOWER OPENING TOWARDS HER DAWN.

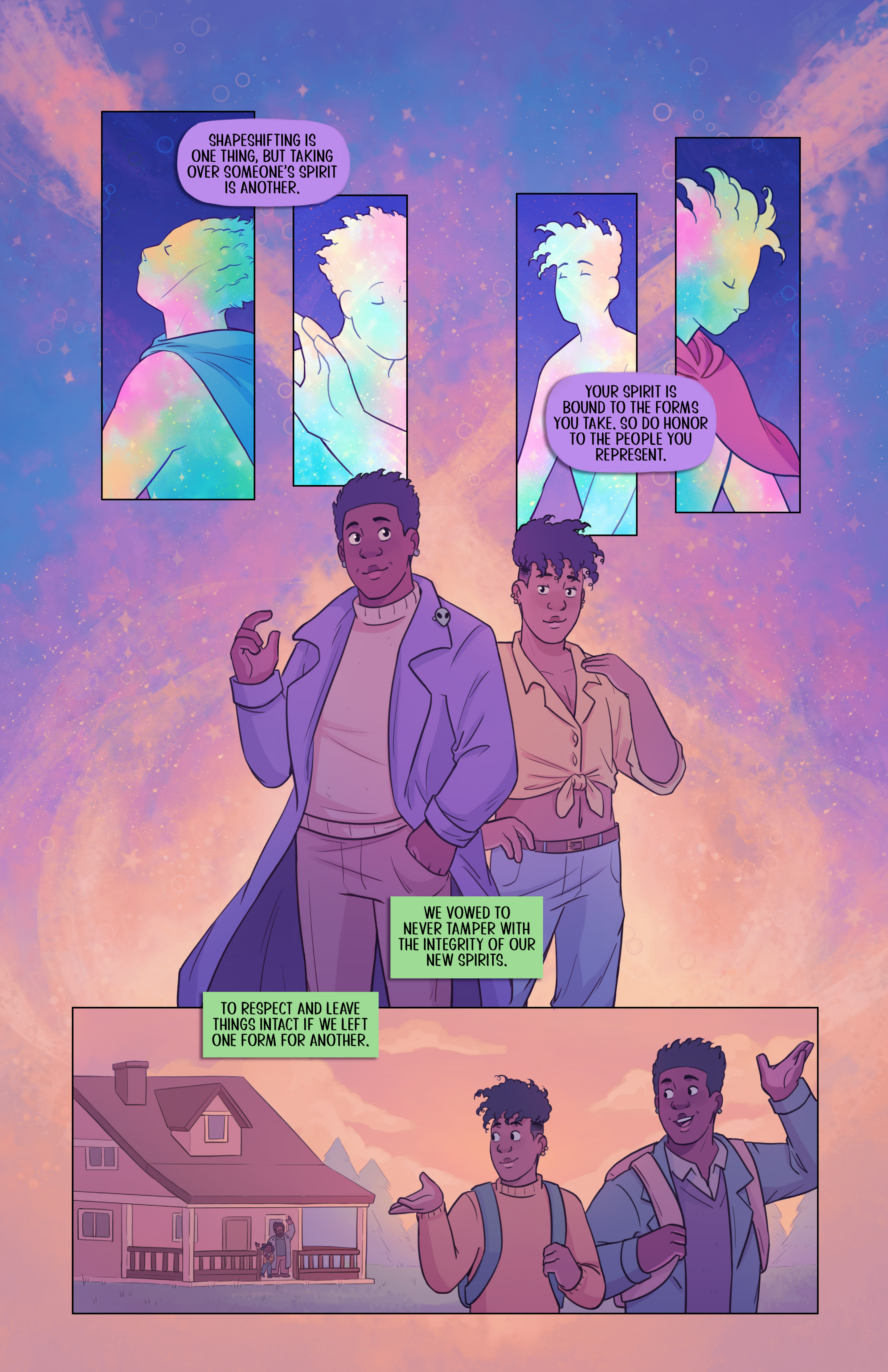


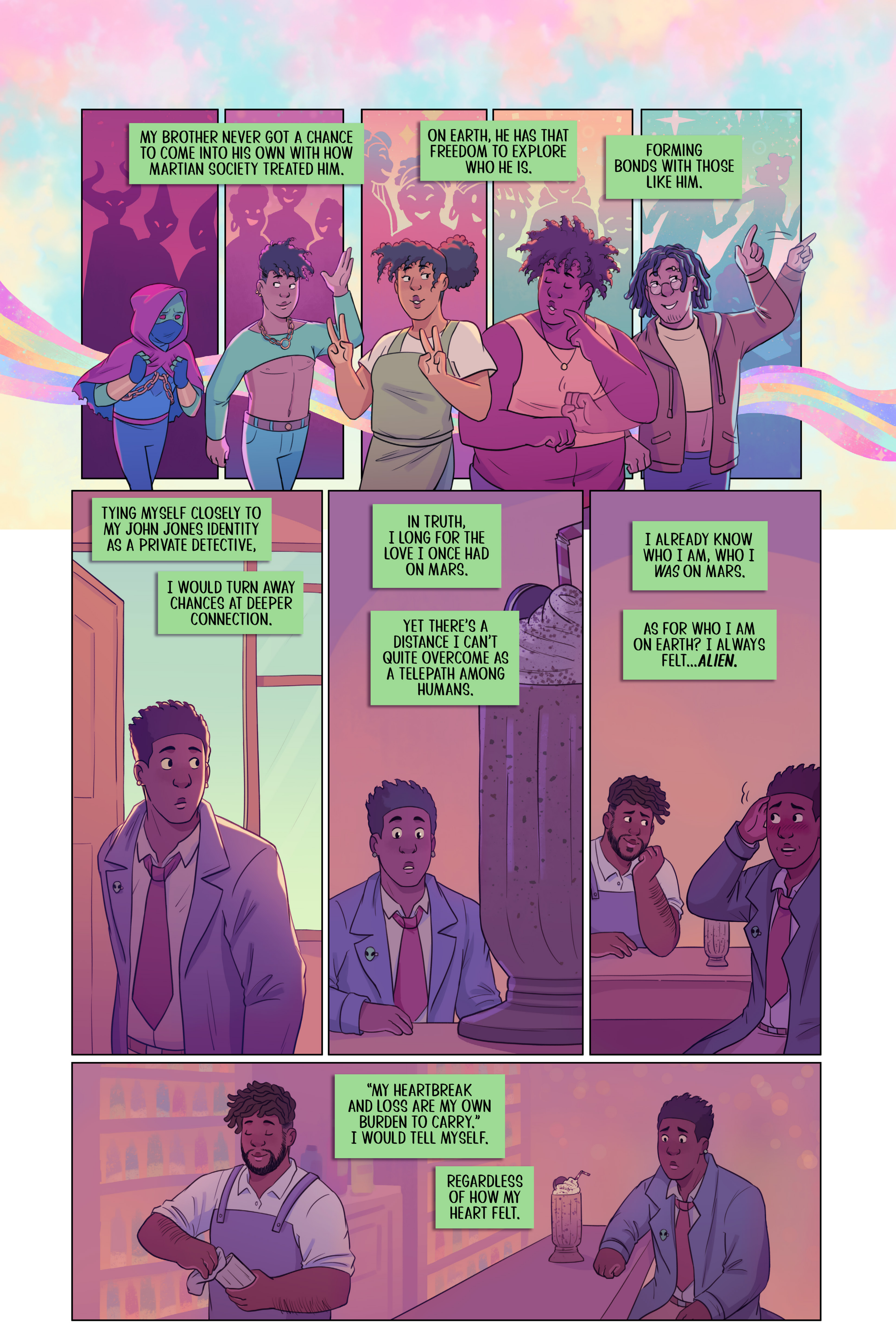
CATWOMAN BY MIGHTYIRONSTAR

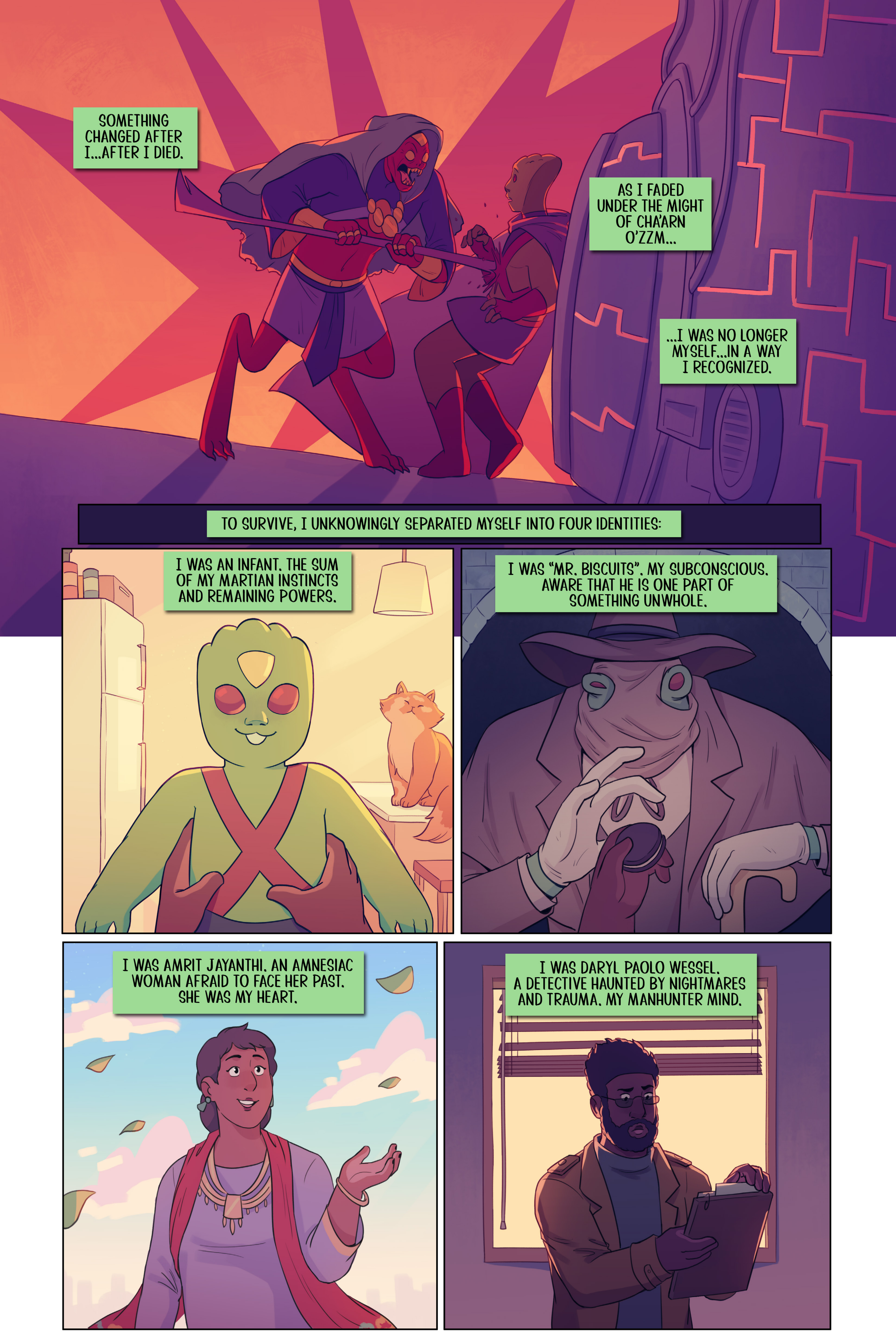

EPIPHANY
ART AND WRITING BY JESNCIN WIBOWO, INSPIRED BY THE WORDS OF CARL LUMBLY
WE ALL THOUGHT YOU *DIED,* J'ONN.
HOW IS IT THAT YOU'RE BACK LIKE THIS?
I'M STILL TRYING TO UNDERSTAND THAT MYSELF, SAUL.
I'VE HAD A LOT ON MY MIND RECENTLY, MATTERS I CAN'T QUITE COMPREHEND ON MY OWN.
AH, SO THAT'S WHY YOU'RE HERE. FOR GUIDANCE.
AND YOUR COFFEE. THAT TOO.
DO YOU RECALL HOW WE MET?
HAH, HOW COULD I FORGET?

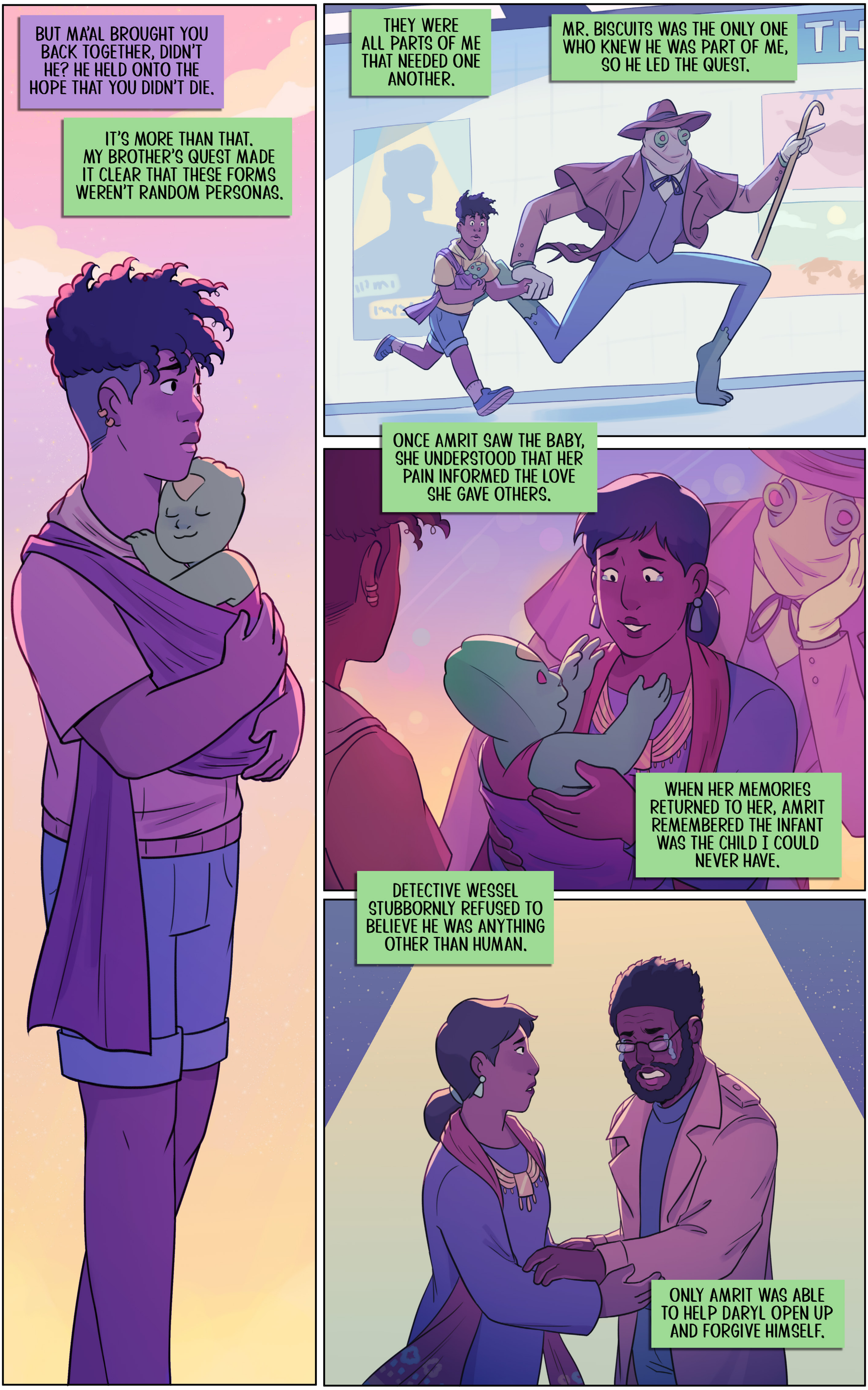

AS TERRIFIED AS I WAS UPON YOUR ARRIVAL,
I STILL REMEMBER THINKING...
...THAT YOU AND YOUR BROTHER WERE THE MOST MARVELOUS BEINGS I HAD EVER SEEN.
YOU AND MELISSA TOOK US IN WHEN WE WERE LOST.
IT WAS FROM YOUR MIND, SAUL, THAT I LEARNED OF HUMAN CUSTOMS AND LANGUAGE.
EVEN WHEN MY BROTHER WAS UNABLE TO SPEAK OR USE TELEPATHY, YOU WERE WILLING TO SHARE WITH HIM.
MA'ALEFA'AK AND I WOULD LEARN THAT KINDNESS LIKE THAT OF YOUR FAMILY WAS UNCOMMON ON EARTH.

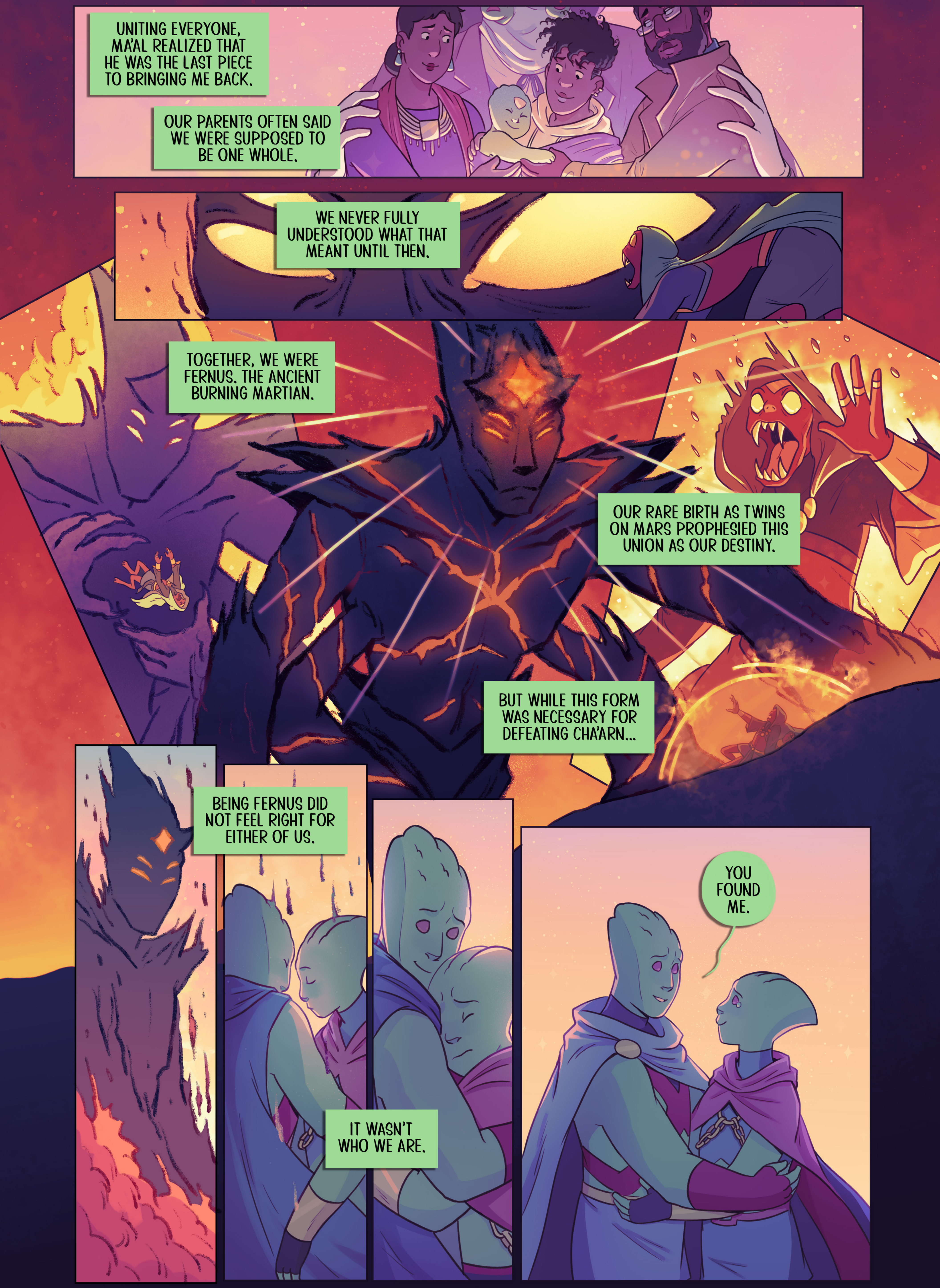

EVENTUALLY MY BROTHER AND I DECIDED WE WANTED TO LIVE AMONG HUMANS IN THE CITY.
UNDER OUR OWN HUMAN ALIASES.
WE STILL CARRY THE WISDOM YOU GAVE US TO THIS DAY.
YOU TWO HAVE TO BE MINDFUL ABOUT THE POWERS YOU USE ON EARTH, ESPECIALLY THAT SHAPESHIFTING.
WE HUMANS CAN'T CHANGE OUR FORMS AND COLOR THE WAY MARTIANS CAN.
THAT'S A PRIVILEGE YOU HAVE, ONE YOU MUST WIELD RESPONSIBLY.
ONCE YOU CHOOSE A FORM, YOU CARRY THAT PERSON'S CULTURE AND HISTORY WITH YOU.

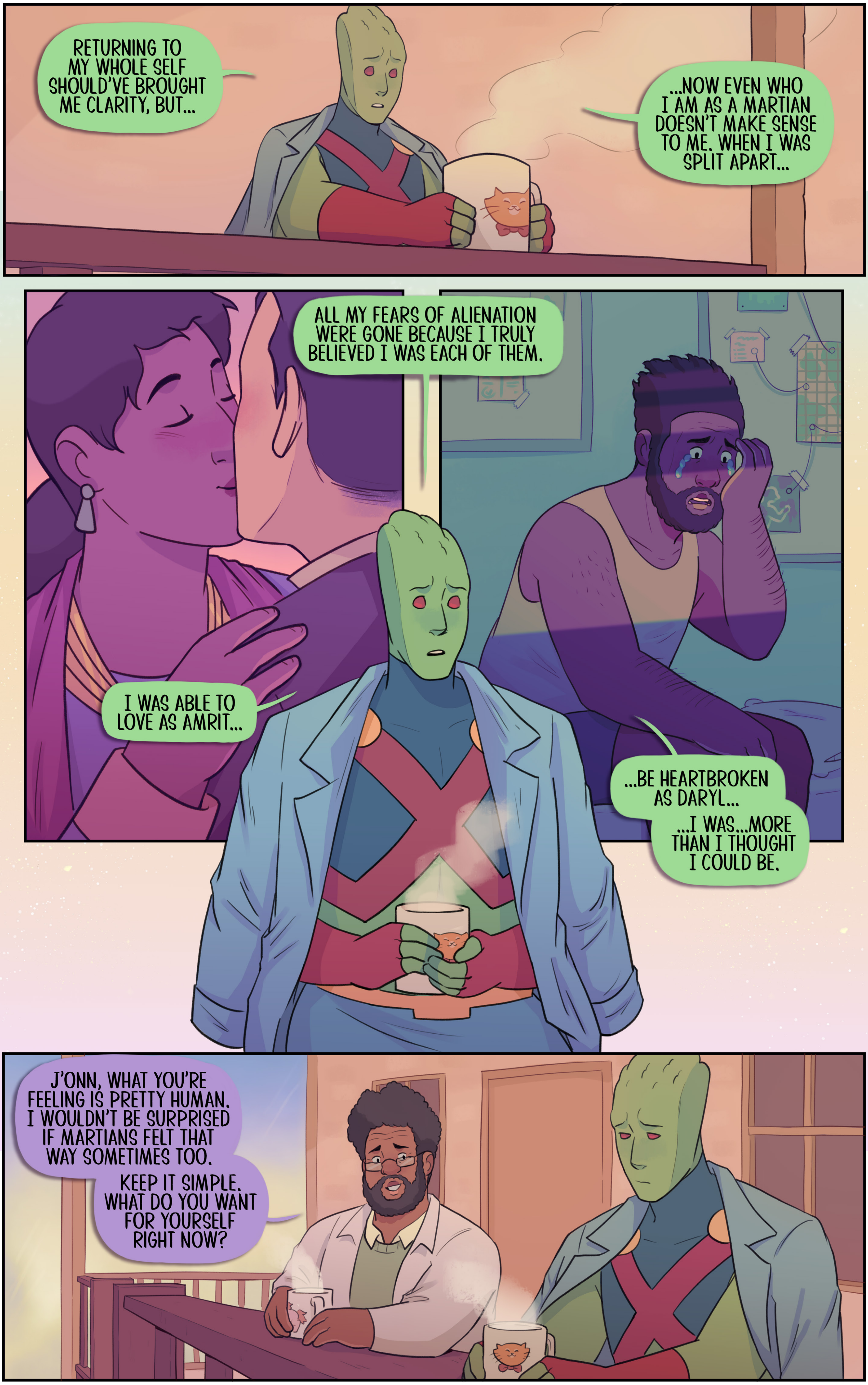

SHAPESHIFTING IS ONE THING, BUT TAKING OVER SOMEONE'S SPIRIT IS ANOTHER.
YOUR SPIRIT IS BOUND TO THE FORMS YOU TAKE. SO DO HONOR TO THE PEOPLE YOU REPRESENT.
WE VOWED TO NEVER TAMPER WITH THE INTEGRITY OF OUR NEW SPIRITS.
TO RESPECT AND LEAVE THINGS INTACT IF WE LEFT ONE FORM FOR ANOTHER.

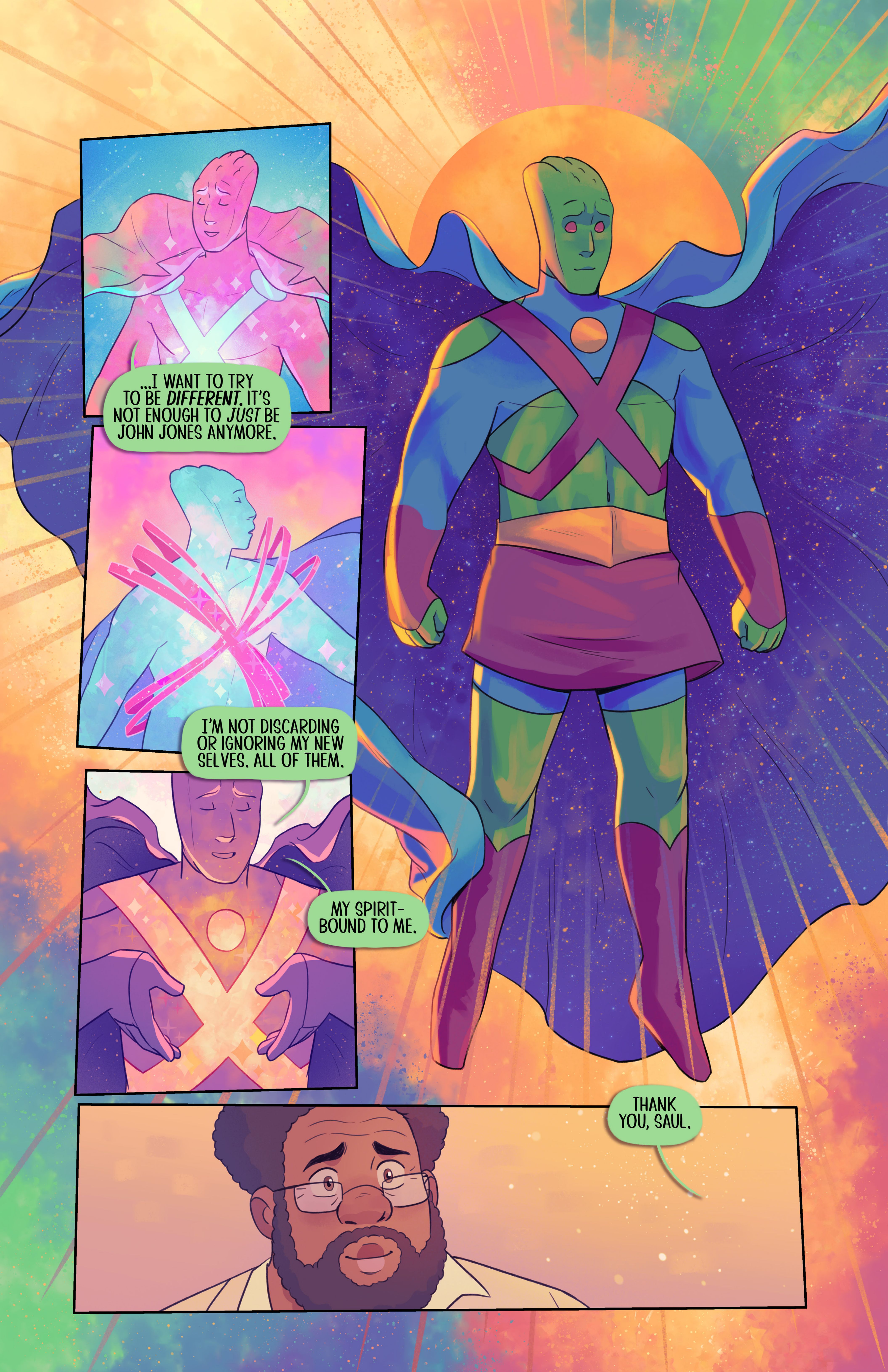

MY BROTHER NEVER GOT A CHANCE TO COME INTO HIS OWN WITH HOW MARTIAN SOCIETY TREATED HIM.
ON EARTH, HE HAS THAT FREEDOM TO EXPLORE WHO HE IS.
FORMING BONDS WITH THOSE LIKE HIM.
TYING MYSELF CLOSELY TO MY JOHN JONES IDENTITY AS A PRIVATE DETECTIVE,
I WOULD TURN AWAY CHANCES AT DEEPER CONNECTION.
IN TRUTH, I LONG FOR THE LOVE I ONCE HAD ON MARS.
YET THERE'S A DISTANCE I CAN'T QUITE OVERCOME AS A TELEPATH AMONG HUMANS.
I ALREADY KNOW WHO I AM, WHO I *WAS* ON MARS.
AS FOR WHO I AM ON EARTH? I ALWAYS FELT...***ALIEN.***
"MY HEARTBREAK AND LOSS ARE MY OWN BURDEN TO CARRY." I WOULD TELL MYSELF.
REGARDLESS OF HOW MY HEART FELT.

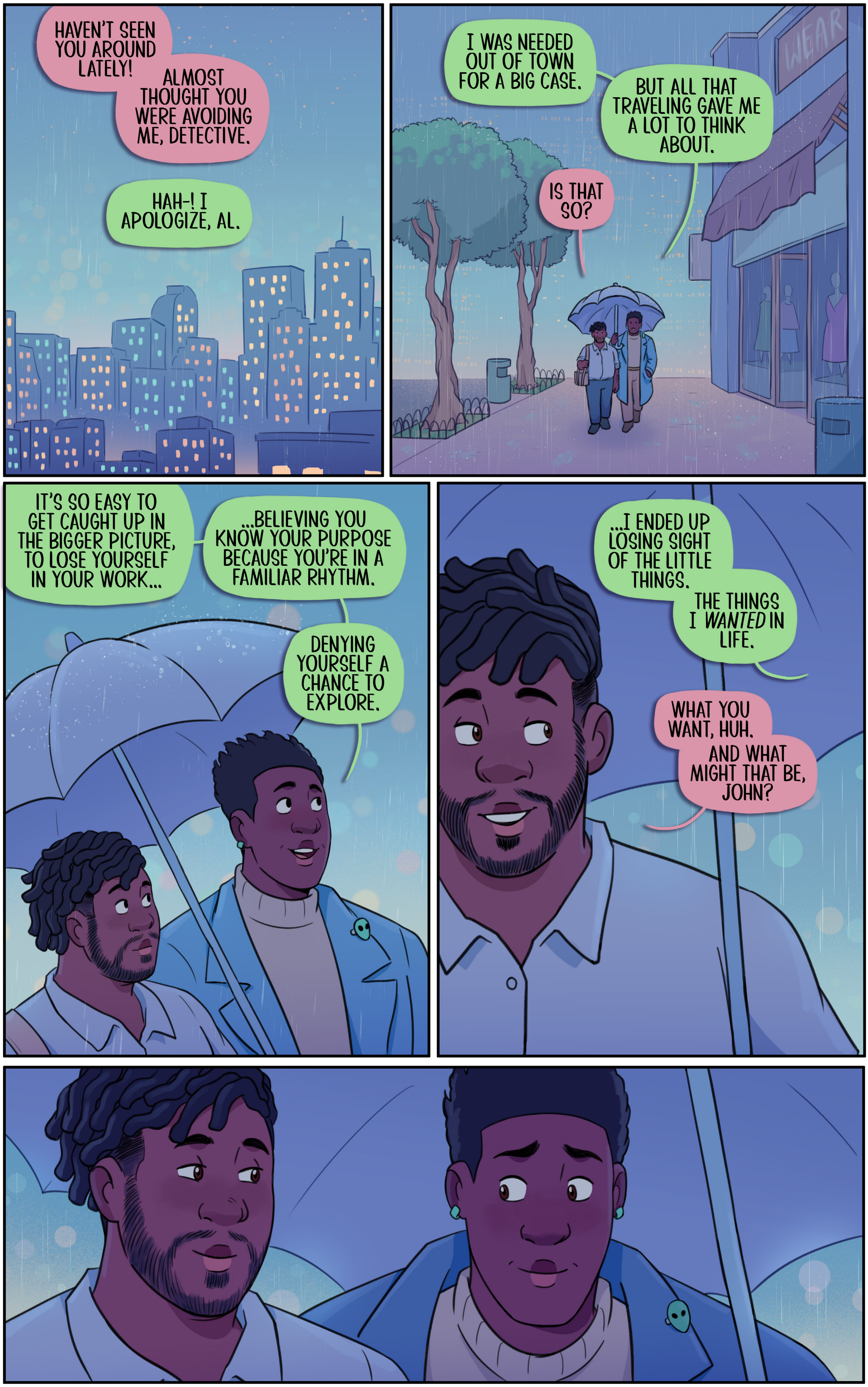

SOMETHING CHANGED AFTER I...AFTER I DIED.
AS I FADED UNDER THE MIGHT OF CHA'ARN O'ZZM...
...I WAS NO LONGER MYSELF...IN A WAY I RECOGNIZED.
TO SURVIVE, I UNKNOWINGLY SEPARATED MYSELF INTO FOUR IDENTITIES:
I WAS AN INFANT, THE SUM OF MY MARTIAN INSTINCTS AND REMAINING POWERS.
I WAS "MR. BISCUITS", MY SUBCONSCIOUS, AWARE THAT HE IS ONE PART OF SOMETHING UNWHOLE.
I WAS AMRIT JAYANTHI, AN AMNESIAC WOMAN AFRAID TO FACE HER PAST. SHE WAS MY HEART.
I WAS DARYL PAOLO WESSEL, A DETECTIVE HAUNTED BY NIGHTMARES AND TRAUMA, MY MANHUNTER MIND.

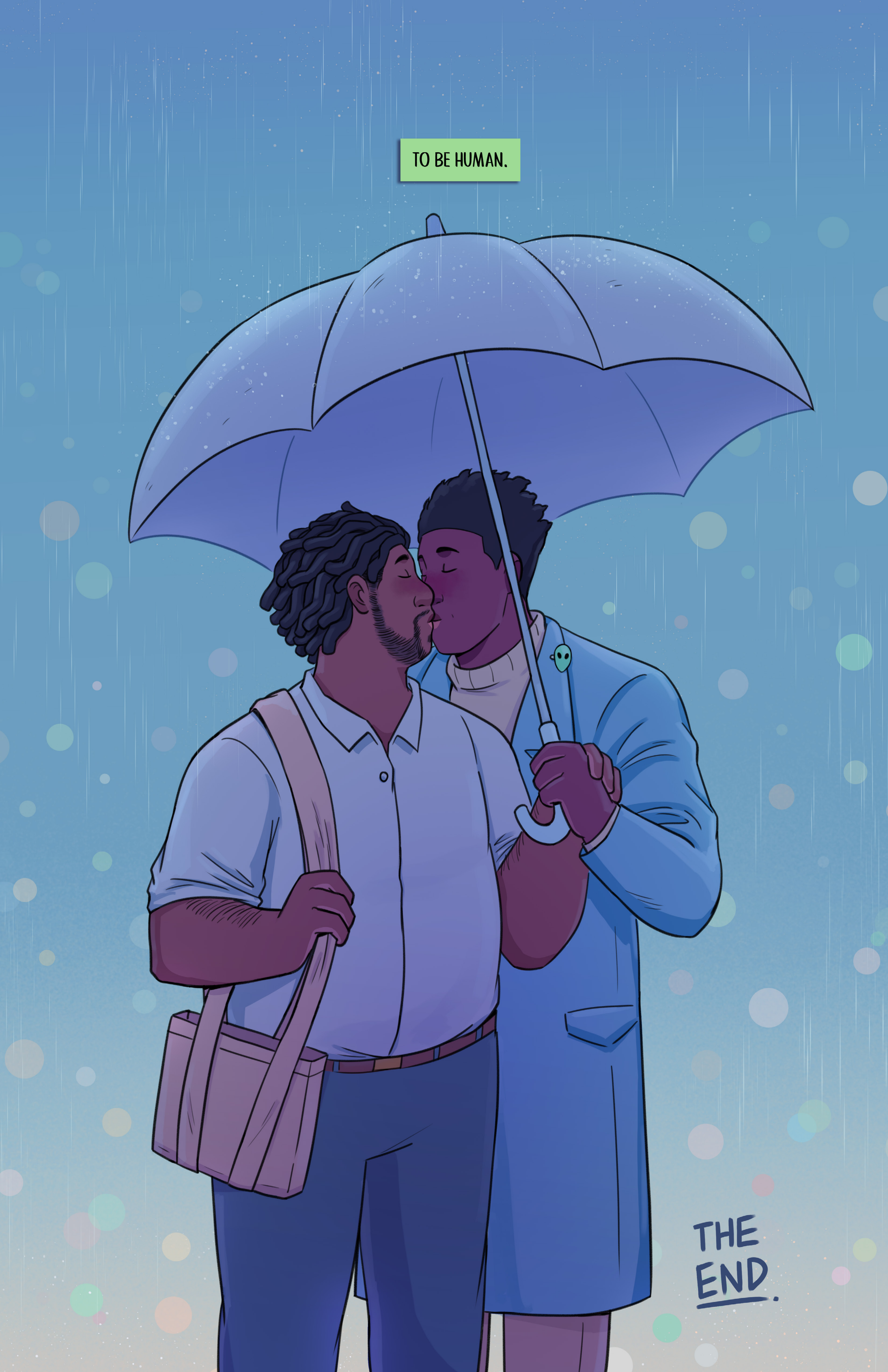

BUT MA'AL BROUGHT YOU BACK TOGETHER, DIDN'T HE? HE HELD ONTO THE HOPE THAT YOU DIDN'T DIE.
IT'S MORE THAN THAT. MY BROTHER'S QUEST MADE IT CLEAR THAT THESE FORMS WEREN'T RANDOM PERSONAS.
THEY WERE ALL PARTS OF ME THAT NEEDED ONE ANOTHER.
MR. BISCUITS WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO KNEW HE WAS PART OF ME, SO HE LED THE QUEST.
TH
ONCE AMRIT SAW THE BABY, SHE UNDERSTOOD THAT HER PAIN INFORMED THE LOVE SHE GAVE OTHERS.
WHEN HER MEMORIES RETURNED TO HER, AMRIT REMEMBERED THE INFANT WAS THE CHILD I COULD NEVER HAVE.
DETECTIVE WESSEL STUBBORNLY REFUSED TO BELIEVE HE WAS ANYTHING OTHER THAN HUMAN.
ONLY AMRIT WAS ABLE TO HELP DARYL OPEN UP AND FORGIVE HIMSELF.


UNITING EVERYONE, MA'AL REALIZED THAT HE WAS THE LAST PIECE TO BRINGING ME BACK.
OUR PARENTS OFTEN SAID WE WERE SUPPOSED TO BE ONE WHOLE.
WE NEVER FULLY UNDERSTOOD WHAT THAT MEANT UNTIL THEN.
TOGETHER, WE WERE FERNUS. THE ANCIENT BURNING MARTIAN.
OUR RARE BIRTH AS TWINS ON MARS PROPHESIED THIS UNION AS OUR DESTINY.
BUT WHILE THIS FORM WAS NECESSARY FOR DEFEATING CHA'ARN...
BEING FERNUS DID NOT FEEL RIGHT FOR EITHER OF US.
IT WASN'T WHO WE ARE.
YOU FOUND ME.


RETURNING TO MY WHOLE SELF SHOULD'VE BROUGHT ME CLARITY, BUT...
...NOW EVEN WHO I AM AS A MARTIAN DOESN'T MAKE SENSE TO ME. WHEN I WAS SPLIT APART...
ALL MY FEARS OF ALIENATION WERE GONE BECAUSE I TRULY BELIEVED I WAS EACH OF THEM.
I WAS ABLE TO LOVE AS AMRIT...
...BE HEARTBROKEN AS DARYL...
...I WAS...MORE THAN I THOUGHT I COULD BE.
J'ONN, WHAT YOU'RE FEELING IS PRETTY HUMAN. I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF MARTIANS FELT THAT WAY SOMETIMES TOO.
KEEP IT SIMPLE. WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR YOURSELF RIGHT NOW?


...I WANT TO TRY TO BE *DIFFERENT*. IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO *JUST* BE JOHN JONES ANYMORE.
I'M NOT DISCARDING OR IGNORING MY NEW SELVES. ALL OF THEM.
MY SPIRIT-BOUND TO ME.
THANK YOU, SAUL.


HAVEN'T SEEN YOU AROUND LATELY!
ALMOST THOUGHT YOU WERE AVOIDING ME, DETECTIVE.
HAH-! I APOLOGIZE, AL.
I WAS NEEDED OUT OF TOWN FOR A BIG CASE.
BUT ALL THAT TRAVELING GAVE ME A LOT TO THINK ABOUT.
WEAR
IS THAT SO?
IT'S SO EASY TO GET CAUGHT UP IN THE BIGGER PICTURE, TO LOSE YOURSELF IN YOUR WORK...
...BELIEVING YOU KNOW YOUR PURPOSE BECAUSE YOU'RE IN A FAMILIAR RHYTHM.
DENYING YOURSELF A CHANCE TO EXPLORE.
...I ENDED UP LOSING SIGHT OF THE LITTLE THINGS.
THE THINGS I *WANTED* IN LIFE.
WHAT YOU WANT, HUH.
AND WHAT MIGHT THAT BE, JOHN?


TO BE HUMAN.
THE END.

THANK YOU FOR READING!

YOUR FEEDBACK IS INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT TO US! IT WOULD MEAN THE WORLD IF YOU WOULD FILL OUT A BRIEF SURVEY SO WE KNOW WHAT YOU LIKED AND HOW WE CAN IMPROVE IN THE FUTURE!

TAKE THE SURVEY

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!